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Translator's Note

The kanji for "Granacis" means "pomegranate" and the kanji for "Elixir" means "Philosopher's stone"

"The stone, also referred to as the "tincture" or the "powder" (Greek xerion, which passed through Latin into Arabic as elixir), was allied to an elixir of life, believed by alchemists to be a liquid derived from it. Inasmuch as alchemy was concerned not only with the search for a method of upgrading less valuable metals but also of perfecting the human soul, the philosopher's stone was thought to cure illnesses, prolong life, and bring about spiritual revitalization. The philosopher's stone, described variously, was sometimes said to be a common substance, found everywhere but unrecognized and unappreciated."
(Encyc. Brit., 15th ed., 1976)

Taken from
http://www.quackgrass.com/stone.htm



Note on the twins' names:

Their names are supposed to be those of dawn and dusk: Aurora (the morning) and Sera (in italian, evening/night)



Author's Recent Picture

Akino Matsuri

Born July 7th,
living in Yokohama.
This is about my
beloved medieval Italy.
Please read it.
I await letters about
your impressions. ♡

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THE ONES WHOM THE BLACK-HAIRED LORENZO SAW IN THE VINEYARD'S CASTLE WERE THE BEAUTIFUL TWIN SISTERS POSESSING THE NAMES OF DAWN AND DUSK.



Labyrinth of Granacis

Elixir



Seeking the "elixir",

the alchemist Lorenzo

begins his journey!

illustration◆Akino Matsuri
cover design◆Fujishiro Kaoru


Bunkasha Comics
ホラー ミステリ シリーズ
秋乃茉莉
グラナシス
柘榴の迷宮
Elixir 1
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Elixir 1

Labyrinth of Granacis

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of Dawn
and Dusk



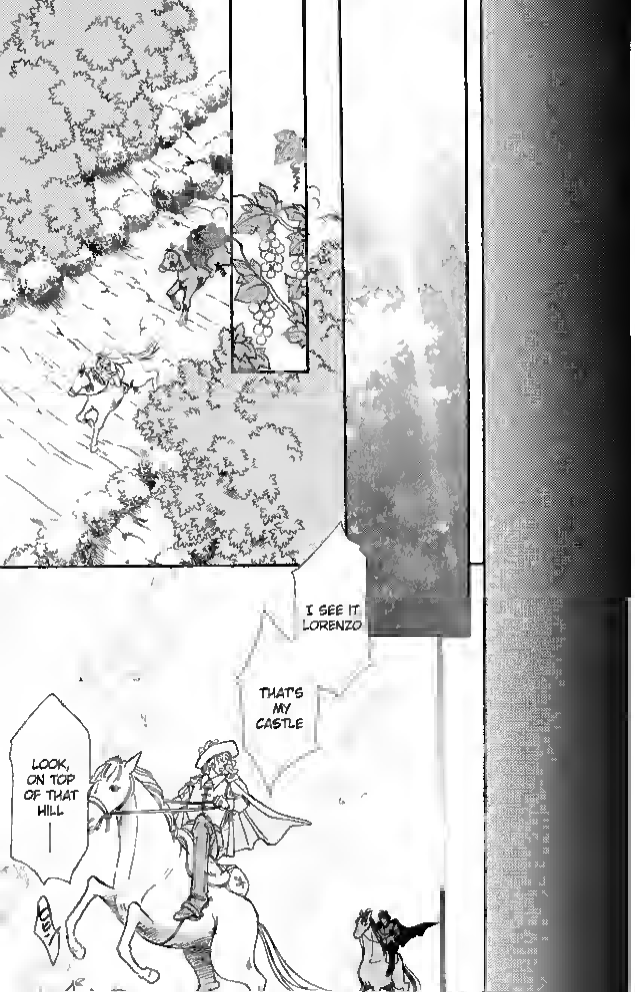
#night_exile@irc.irchighway.net


His black-clad edges fluttering in the south wind
the demon alighted.


AAAAAAH
AA--
THE LADY IS ALMOST THERE
DON'T GO
YE-YES
MORE HOT WATER!
GO ON, OVER THERE.
HEY, YOU BOYS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?


A PRINCESS.
A HEALTHY PRINCESS.
A BOY?
A GIRL?
Waaah
Waaah
I SEE
NOW FORTUNA IS SECURE
pant
pant
THERE'S ANOTHER
NO-
WAIT


THAT ....
MY LADY!?
ZOOOO——
THE PRINCESS IS A TWIN.
Waaah
Waaah
... WHA
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS


I SEE IT, LORENZO
THAT'S MY CASTLE
LOOK, ON TOP OF THAT HILL


SO THE VINEYARDS AROUND HERE ARE ALSO COUNT FORTUNA'S PROPERTY
Plucks
YUP, IT'S TASTY
HEY HEY, DON'T BE GREEDY
YOU'LL GET TO DRINK PLENTY OF TOP-QUALITY WINE ONCE WE GET THERE
HAHAHA, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
YEAH... I CAN SEE IT
FEDERICO


AURORA
ANOTHER SIGH
AH
BECAUSE DAY AFTER DAY, EMBROIDERY, READING
IT'S SUFFOCATING
REALLY? BUT I LIKE THIS KIND OF THING
HM
whoosh


YAAY ♡
WELCOME HOME, FEDERICO!!
OOF !?
AURORA !!
SERA!!
HEY, COME ON, AURORA, YOU'RE HEAVY
HMPH! HOW RUDE TOWARDS A LADY
THESE ARE TWINS !?
MY IMPRESSIONS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
WELCOME HOME, OLDER BROTHER.
AND YOU, SERA?


AURORA, BE SERIOUS YOU'RE IN FRONT OF A GUEST
THIS IS MY FRIEND FROM COLLEGE LORENZO LUGIANO
EH!?
HOW DO YOU DO
WOW ♡
HE WAS BORN ON THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS
WELL, NOW IT'S BEEN ANNEXED BY VENETIA AND IS A TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC.
Black sea
Rome
Naples
Athens
Aegean Sea
Anatolia
Crete
Cyprus
Alexandria
Cairo
BY CYPRUS YOU MEAN THE ONE EAST OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA!?
THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE SOUTH WIND
WAS HIM WASN'T IT?

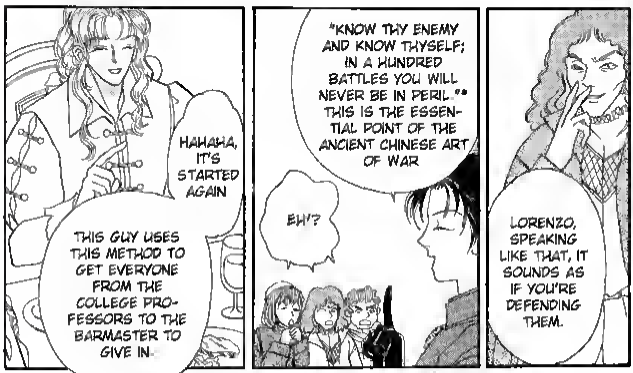

WHO KNOWS
THOUGH THEY ARRIVED HOME FROM MILANO LAST NIGHT...
?
BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE OUR BROTHERS?
UM...
I SEE.
I'LL INTRODUCE THEM TO LORENZO AT DINNER
MORE IMPORTANTLY, BROTHER, WHERE ARE THE PRESENTS!?
HAHA, YOU NEVER CHANGE, AURORA.
WOW, PRETTY HAIRPIECE.
THANK YOU, BROTHER!
HERE
IT WAS MADE BY A FIRENZE CRAFTSMAN BY SPECIAL ORDER.
NO... THAT IS...
THAT'S NOT TRUE, SERA.
I WAS WONDERING IF IT WAS A BIT SHOWY FOR ME...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SERA?


IT'S SET WITH JASPER TO MATCH YOUR EYES.
BOTH OF YOU WEAR THEM FOR ME AT THE BIRTHDAY BANQUET TOMORROW.
OKAY


I AM THIS FAMILY'S ELDEST SON PIETRO DE FORTUNA
ALTHOUGH I LIVE IN A VILLA IN MILANO WITH MY WIFE ISABELLA AND MY CHILD
NICE TO MEET YOU
I'M THE SECOND SON FILIPPO. IT'S ALSO BEEN 5 YEARS SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS HOUSE, AFTER I MARRIED INTO A BARON'S FAMILY IN TUSCANY
I'M THE THIRD SON COSIMO I AM CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE VATICAN
AND MY FOURTH BROTHER MARCO PASSED AWAY WHEN HE WAS A CHILD
SO I'M THE FIFTH SON, FEDERICO
AH' SO IN A COLLEGE IN BOLOGNE
YOU COMPLETE THE WILLFUL DISPERSION OF RESIDENCES
HEY, GIVE ME A BREAK IN FRONT OF MY SISTERS AND IN-LAWS !


WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING, LORENZO?
MEDICINE AND CHEMISTRY
OH? SO DO YOU ALSO DO EXPERIMENTS TO TURN MERCURY INTO SOLID GOLD?
BROTHER FILIPPO, HE'S NOT AN ALCHEMIST
ALCHEMY!?
THAT'S JUST TRICKERY, RIGHT!?
BUT ORIGINALLY "ALCHEMY" WAS A RESPECTABLE STUDY THAT BEGAN IN ANCIENT EGYPT.
YES, CERTAINLY MOST ALCHEMISTS ARE LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM IMPOSTERS,
ACCORDING TO THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER ARISTOTLE
THIS WORLD IS COMPOSED OF THE FOUR GREAT ELEMENTS OF FIRE, AIR, WATER, AND EARTH
AND IT IS FROM THE COMBINATION OF THOSE FOUR PROPERTIES THAT ALL OF CREATION IS FORMED.
IN OTHER WORDS, A SINGLE SEED
BECOMES A GRAPE
THE GRAPE, WINE
AND THEN THE WINE BECOMES VINEGAR.
SIMILARLY, ANY SUBSTANCE IS CONSTANTLY TRANSFORMING





*Note the quote is from Sun Tzu's Art of War


HA HA HA, YOU'RE A PRETTY INTERESTING GUY
SAY, LORENZO. WHAT KIND OF THING IS THAT "ELIXIR"?
AH— GOOD NIGHT
LET'S GO, SERA
clatter
WE WILL ALSO TAKE OUR LEAVE
UNLIKE IN MILANO, RURAL NIGHTS ARE CHILLY.
YES, BROTHER.
ALIRORA!
start
YOU TWO ARE DISMISSED.
DON'T INTERPOSE IN AN ADULT'S DISCUSSION.


OH SORRY, I SAID SOMETHING MEDDLING-
NO
IT'S THE TRUTH
MOTHER ?
THAT'S PROBABLY MOTHER'S FAULT.
YOUR OLDER BROTHERS SEEM PRETTY COLD TOWARDS YOUR SISTERS
I WAS TOO YOUNG AND DON'T REMEMBER.
BUT MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN GIVING BIRTH TO MY SISTERS
AH .....
THIS TOWER ISN'T NORMALLY USED
....PERHAPS THERE'S ONE MORE REASON....


THIS IS A PORTRAIT OF OUR MOTHER, CATERINA DE FORTUNA
LOOK!
THOUGH IT'S FROM ABOUT 10 YEARS BEFORE PIETRO WAS BORN.
SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THOSE TWINS...!!
THAT'S NOT ALL. OVER HERE...
AH!

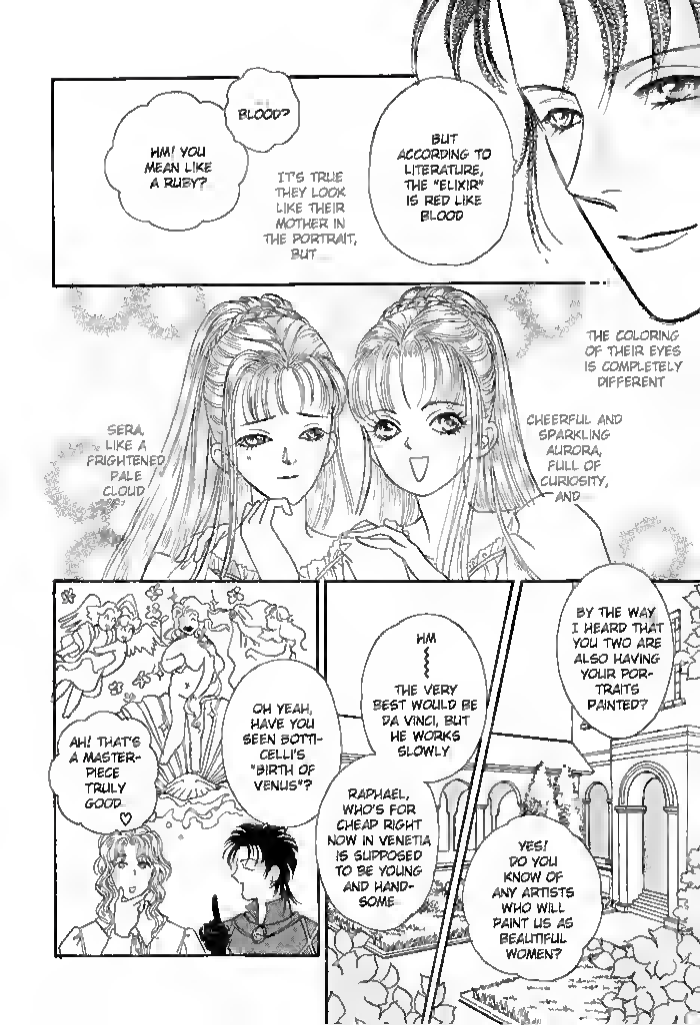

7 GENERATIONS AGO THAT'S A PORTRAIT OF OUR GRANDMOTHER FROM 150 YEARS AGO, CATERINA DE FORTUNA.
THAT'S OUR GRANDMOTHER.
OVER THERE IS OUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER
AS IF THEY'RE ALL THE SAME PERSON!?
EACH WITH STRONG-WILLED GREEN EYES FULL OF CHALLENGE
THOSE GIRLS ARE THE TRUE HEADS OF THIS COUNT FORTUNA'S FAMILY
EH!?


I WONDER WHICH'S IMAGE WILL BE HUNG UP
AND SOMEDAY IN THE NEXT PORTRAIT,
AURORA OR SERA.


I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS!

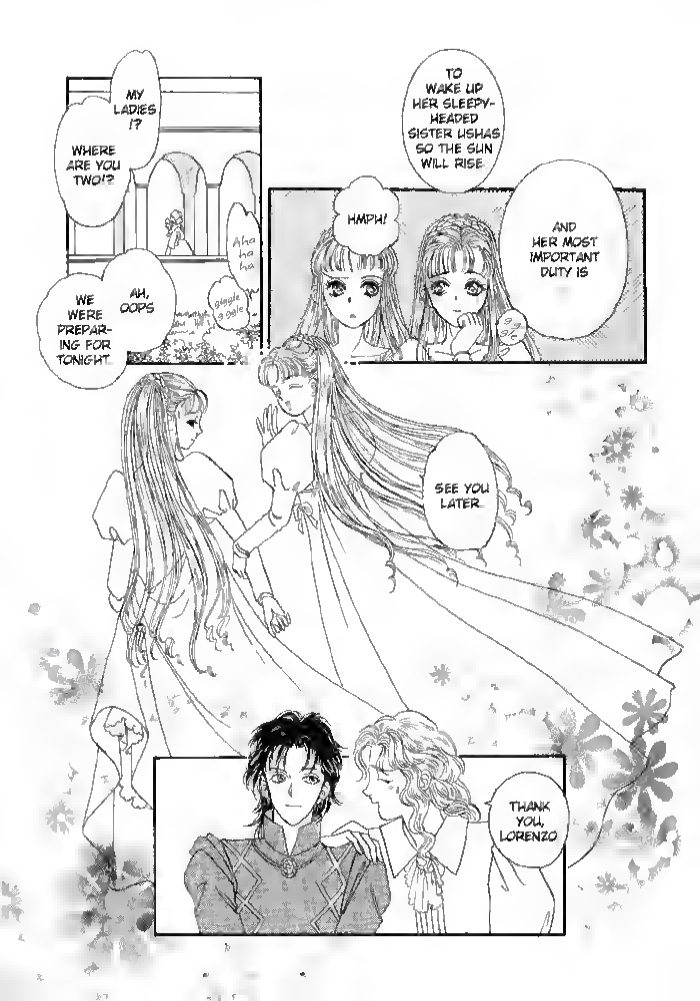

EVEN IF THE PREVIOUS COUNTESS CATERINA ONLY HAD A DAUGHTER AND HAD NO CHOICE...
THIS TIME THERE ARE 4 HEALTHY SONS...
AND YET EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE THIS COUNT'S ELDEST SON...!!
WHY DO YOU RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT AS THE SECOND AND THIRD SONS!?
...YES, EXACTLY SO.
ISABELLA, STOP MAKING ME SAY THE SAME THING AGAIN!
THESE ARE MY FAMILY'S PRECEPTS
IT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN PRESERVED THROUGH THE GENERATIONS THAT THE FORTUNA FAMILY'S PROSPERITY HAS CONTINUED.
DO YOU MEAN THAT THE LEGITIMATE HEIR IS SET ASIDE, AND THE FUTURE CHILDREN OF THOSE IMPUDENT GIRLS WILL INHERIT THE VAST FORTUNA ASSETS!?
...THEN THIS CHILD--
WHAT OF OTTAVIO!?
AND THEY MUST ALSO BE FEMALE.


AH, GOOD MORNING, AURORA.
GERA
GOOD MORNING
BROTHER FEDERICO, LORENZO
IN THE LIGHT OF MORNING, THEY SEEM AS EPHEMERAL AS A SHIMMER OF HEAT
SAY, LORENZO CONTINUE WITH WHAT YOU WERE SAYING LAST NIGHT!
LAST NIGHT?
AH, THE "ELIXIR"?
WELL, I HAVEN'T SEEN THE REAL THING EITHER


BLOOD?
HM! YOU MEAN LIKE A RUBY?
IT'S TRUE THEY LOOK LIKE THEIR MOTHER IN THE PORTRAIT, BUT...
BUT ACCORDING TO LITERATURE, THE "ELIXIR" IS RED LIKE BLOOD
THE COLORING OF THEIR EYES IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
SERA, LIKE A FRIGHTENED PALE CLOUD
CHEERFUL AND SPARKLING AURORA, FULL OF CURIOSITY, AND...
AH! THAT'S A MASTERPIECE TRULY GOOD ♡
OH YEAH, HAVE YOU SEEN BOTTICELLI'S "BIRTH OF VENUS"?
HM
THE VERY BEST WOULD BE DA VINCI, BUT HE WORKS SLOWLY
RAPHAEL, WHO'S FOR CHEAP RIGHT NOW IN VENETIA IS SUPPOSED TO BE YOUNG AND HANDSOME
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT YOU TWO ARE ALSO HAVING YOUR PORTRAITS PAINTED?
YES! DO YOU KNOW OF ANY ARTISTS WHO WILL PAINT US AS BEAUTIFUL WOMEN?


Renaissance
BY "VENUS" YOU MEAN THE GODDESS THAT APPEARS IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY?
IS IT OKAY TO PAINT A PICTURE THAT PRAISES SUCH A PAGAN DEITY?
MORE SO THAN THE STRICT AND FORMAL THEMES OF CHRIST,
IT SEEMS THAT THE OLD MYTHOLOGIES WITH STRONG STORIES ARE CURRENTLY MORE INSPIRING FOR ARTISTS
I AM ALSO DEEPLY DEVOTED TO MY OWN PLEASURE THE ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN GODS WERE QUITE HUMAN SO I LIKE THEM
I'M A GOD SO I'LL BE FICKLE AND I'LL BE JEALOUS
I'LL BE ADULTEROUS, INCESTUOUS, HOMOSEXUAL, OR WHATEVER!!
WOW! LORENZO IT'D BE BAD IF BROTHER COSIMO HEARD SUCH WORDS!
Amen
I'LL PUNISH YOU! HE'D SAY
HA HA HA!


SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE NAME "AURORA" IS "EOS" A GODDESS, IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY
EOS IS THE GODDESS OF DAWN
A BLOND BEAUTY WITH WHITE WINGS THAT SYMBOLIZED THE MORNING SUN
OH WOW ♡
AH... UH "SERA" IS--THAT IS--
?
OH NO
UMM
SERA APPEARS IN THE HINDU VEDIC MYTHS
LIKE YOU, THEY ARE TWIN SISTERS
THE ELDER IS THE GODDESS OF DAWN USHAS, AND THE YOUNGER IS THE GODDESS OF DUSK, RATRI
RATRI IS ACCOMPANIED BY SHINING STARS, AND PROTECTS PEOPLE FROM THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT, IMPARTING THE PEACE OF SLEEP
LORENZO.


TO WAKE UP HER SLEEPY-HEADED SISTER USHAS SO THE SUN WILL RISE.
HMPH!
AND HER MOST IMPORTANT DUTY IS
MY LADIES!?
WHERE ARE YOU TWO!?
Aha ha ha
giggle giggle
AH, OOPS
WE WERE PREPARING FOR TONIGHT.
SEE YOU LATER.
THANK YOU, LORENZO

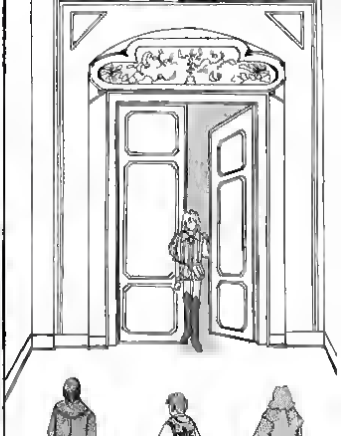

WOW, HOW LOVELY
A VISION FROM GOD.
LIKE TWO FLOWERS ABOUT TO BLOOM


BROTHER, PLEASE
OH ♡ YOU'RE WELL-DISGUISED, PRINCESS TOMBOY
THE HAIRPIECE SUITS YOU AS WELL, SERA
SERA, YOU GO DANCE WITH SOMEONE, TOO.
WITH PLEASURE, AURORA
LORENZO, DANCE WITH ME
I... DANCING IS...
...YES.
THEN DANCE WITH ME.


THE MAN WHO BROUGHT THE WARM WIND FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA
LORENZO, HAVE YOU BEEN TO TURKEY?
YES OF COURSE
AND THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT ..
AND THE ANCIENT TEMPLES OF ATHENS THOSE WERE MAGNIFICENT
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS?
ALL YEAR ROUND FLOWERS OF VARIOUS COLORS BLOOM
AND BEAR FRUIT IT'S A VERITABLE PARADISE
MORE TELL ME A LOT MORE
ABOUT THINGS AROUND THE WORLD

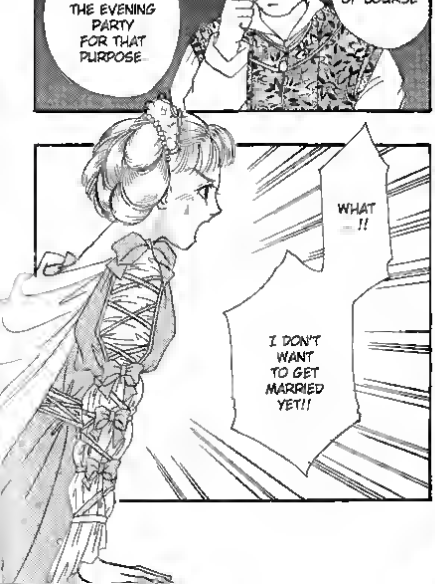

NO! MY HEARTBEAT IS AS IF EVEN BROTHER WILL HEAR IT
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
Painful throb
SERA!!
SERA!?

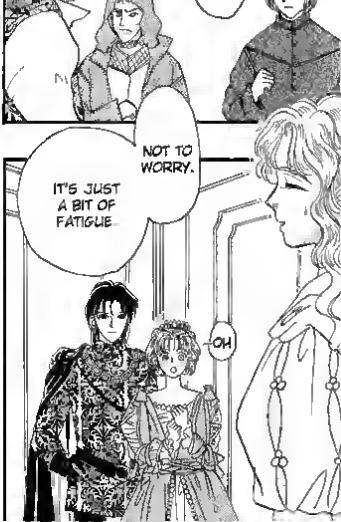

BY THE WAY, AURORA
WERE THERE ANY NOBLES THAT CAUGHT YOUR FANCY AT TODAY'S BANQUET?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? BROTHER PIETRO




TO BE YOUR HUSBAND, OF COURSE
WE HELD THE EVENING PARTY FOR THAT PURPOSE


HOW IS SERA'S CONDI-TION?


WHAT !!
I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED YET!!


NOT TO WORRY.
IT'S JUST A BIT OF FATIGUE
OH

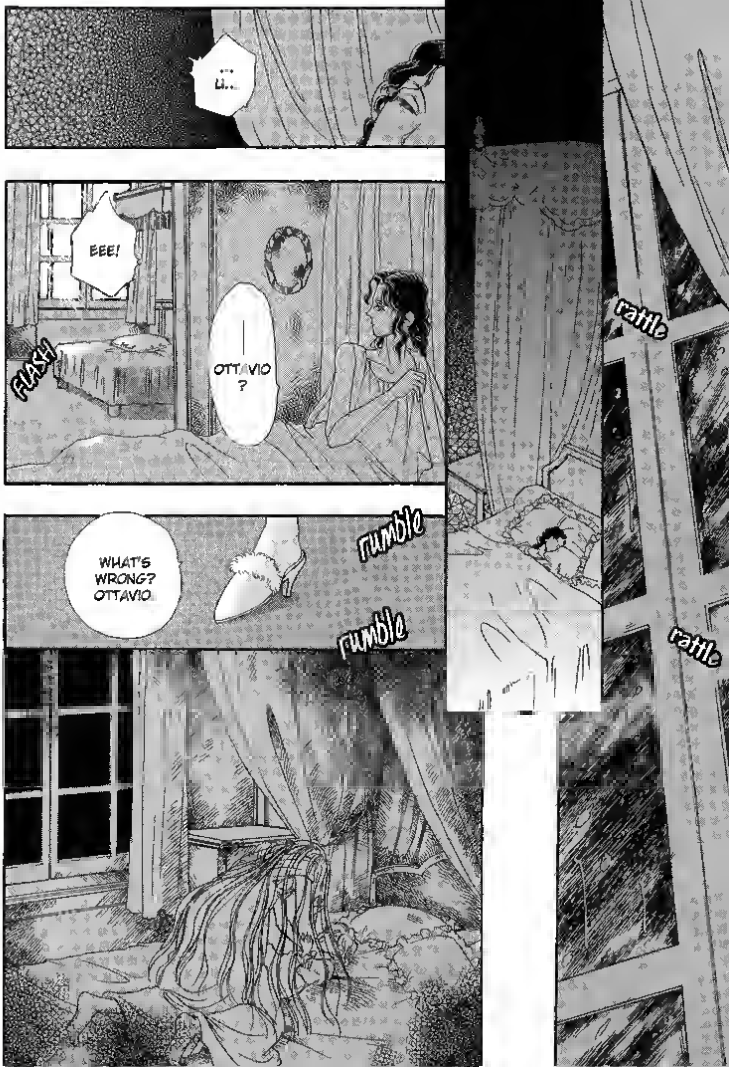

HOW SELFISH! AFTER TURNING 15, YOU'RE OF PROPER MARRIAGE-ABLE AGE.
AS A NOBLE LADY, IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO MARRY AT YOUR PARENTS' DISCRETION A MAN YOU'VE NEVER SEEN OR MET.
.....
MOREOVER, IN YOUR CASE, WE HAVE TO ADOPT THE SON-IN-LAW INTO THE FAMILY.
WE SENT THE INVITATIONS BASED ON SONS OF GOOD FAMILIES THAT WERE SUITABLE.
SO GET MARRIED QUICKLY ...
AND HAVE A FEMALE CHILD.
THAT'S THE DUTY OF THE FEMALE HEAD OF THE FORTUNA FAMILY!!
.....
I UNDER-STAND
IN THAT CASE, I


I CHOOSE LORENZO!
EH!?
WA-
WAIT, AURORA, I-I...
WHAT!?
I WILL MARRY LORENZO
LORENZO IS ACTUALLY A MAN RELATED BY BLOOD TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF CYPRUS...
EH!?
EVEN AS A JOKE, THE SOCIAL STATUS TO BE THE HUSBAND OF THE HEAD OF A COUNT'S FAMILY
B-BUT...
ELDER BROTHER, IF IT'S THAT, THEN DON'T WORRY...
YOU CAN SAY THEY WERE ABOLISHED, BUT IN A PERFECT WORLD
STOP IT, FEDERICO
THAT TALK
CAN IT BE THAT YOU WERE PLANNING THIS FROM THE START...!?
IF I WERE TO BECOME YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW, I WOULD GLADLY WELCOME IT.


I-I DON'T PARTICU-LARLY NEED THE FORTUNA FAMILY'S LAND NOR ASSETS.
rub
rub
IF LORENZO WILL HAVE ME AS HIS WIFE...
I'LL EVEN GO TO BOLOGNE OR CYPRUS!!
HE...HEY WAIT
HO HO HO HO!
ISA-BELLA !?
EVEN IF YOU SAY THE GENTLEMEN ASSEMBLED TODAY WERE OF DISTIN-GUISHED FAMILIES, WEREN'T THEY ALL JUST SECOND AND THIRD SONS YET TO COME INTO THEIR INHERITANCE?
rattle
ISN'T IT ALRIGHT.
IT'S THE SAME NO MATTER WHO BECOMES SON-IN-LAW
HO HO HO HO
IN ANY CASE, EVEN IF THEY HAVE A DAUGHTER, MALES OF THE FORTUNA FAMILY ARE DRIVEN OUT AS IF THEIR USE WAS OVER.
JUST THE SAME AS YOUR FATHERS!!
ISA-BELLA !!


THAT'S RIGHT.
THE ONLY ONE WHO IS AN EYESORE IS AURORA.
IF ONLY SHE MARRIED OUT OF THE FAMILY.
SERA WHO REMAINS HAS THAT WEAK BODY
SHE CAN'T BE WISHING TO HAVE A CHILD
SORRY.
LET'S FINISH THIS DISCUSSION LATER.
YES
WHAT'S WITH HER.
SUCH A RUDE WOMAN

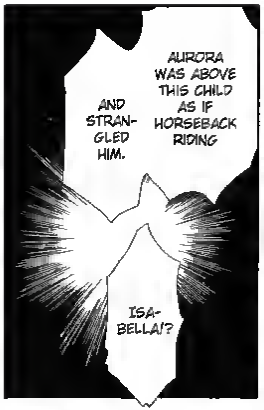

rumble
rumble
FLASH
IN THAT CASE...
MY OTTAVIO WILL HAVE A GOOD CHANCE TO SUCCEED THE FORTUNA FAMILY!!


...
Li...
BEE!
FLASH
OTTAVIO
?
rattle
rumble
WHAT'S WRONG? OTTAVIO
rumble
rattle

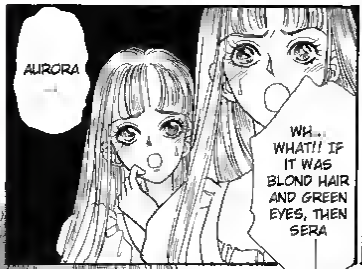

FLASH
clatter
clatter
EE-

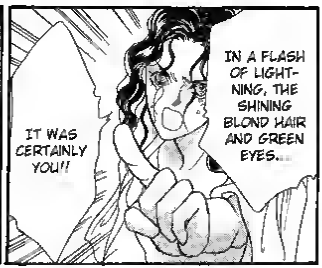

AAAAH—
retella


ISA-
BELLA
OTTAVIO!!
NOOO, OPEN YOUR EYES, OTTAVIO
HOW CRUEL
WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A TERRIBLE
AURO-
RA!!


AURORA WAS ABOVE THIS CHILD AS IF HORSEBACK RIDING
AND STRANGLED HIM.
ISABELLA!?


I SAW IT WITH THESE EYES
EH!?


AURORA
WH... WHAT!! IF IT WAS BLOND HAIR AND GREEN EYES, THEN SERA


IT WAS CERTAINLY YOU!!
IN A FLASH OF LIGHTNING, THE SHINING BLOND HAIR AND GREEN EYES...


SNEAKING IN FROM THE SECOND FLOOR VERANDA WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR SERA
SERA KILLING OTTAVIO, SUCH A THING
TO SAY NOTHING OF THE FACT THAT LAST NIGHT SHE FAINTED AND WAS TAKEN TO BED.


I ..
IT WASN'T ME
BELIEVE ME!! BROTHER FEDERICO
...OF COURSE I BELIEVE YOU.
I BELIEVE IN BOTH OF YOU.
... THEN THAT WOMAN ....
WHO ARE YOU SAYING SHE WAS!?
THE DEVIL WHO KILLED MY OTTAVIO WAS
I GOT IT!!
THAT'S IT, THAT WOMAN.
THAT WITCH DID IT!!
IT'S THE DOING OF THE GHOST OF THE PREVIOUS GENERATION'S LADY CATERINA!!


GHO... GHOSTS ARE DAMNED!!
THEY'RE A BLAS-PHEMY TO GOD.
NO!!
THAT WAS DEFINITELY CATERINA.
IT'S THE DOING OF THAT WITCH WHO'S CONTINUED TO RESIDE IN THAT TOWER.
THE WOMAN WHO, 150 YEARS AGO, SOLD HER BODY TO THE DEVIL!!
THIS MANSION IS CURSED!!


PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
!!
WHOP
FORTUNA MEN ARE CONTINUALLY BEING KILLED BY THAT WOMAN'S CURSE!!
WAAAAH
ZOO
OTTA-VIO!
GIVE BACK MY OTTAVIO!
HAVE ISABELLA REST IN ANOTHER ROOM.
HAAAA


...NO, AS A MOTHER WHO'S LOST HER CHILD, SHE WOULD NATURALLY BE FULL OF ANGER AND GRIEF...
SORRY.
SHE'S A PITIFUL WOMAN WHOSE ONLY EDUCATION HAS BEEN "GIVE BIRTH TO A NOBLE HEIR"
THAT'S...
YES
SHE UNDERSTANDS IT MORE THAN OUR MOTHER
WE BROTHERS WERE ENTRUSTED TO A WET NURSE SOON AFTER BEING BORN
WE WERE RAISED WITHOUT HAVING EVER BEEN HELD OR SMILED AT BY OUR TRUE MOTHER.
OUR MOTHER, THE PREVIOUS CATERINA, WAS A VERY COLDHEARTED WOMAN
FED-ERICO...
YOU MAY NOT REMEMBER BECAUSE YOU WERE VERY YOUNG.

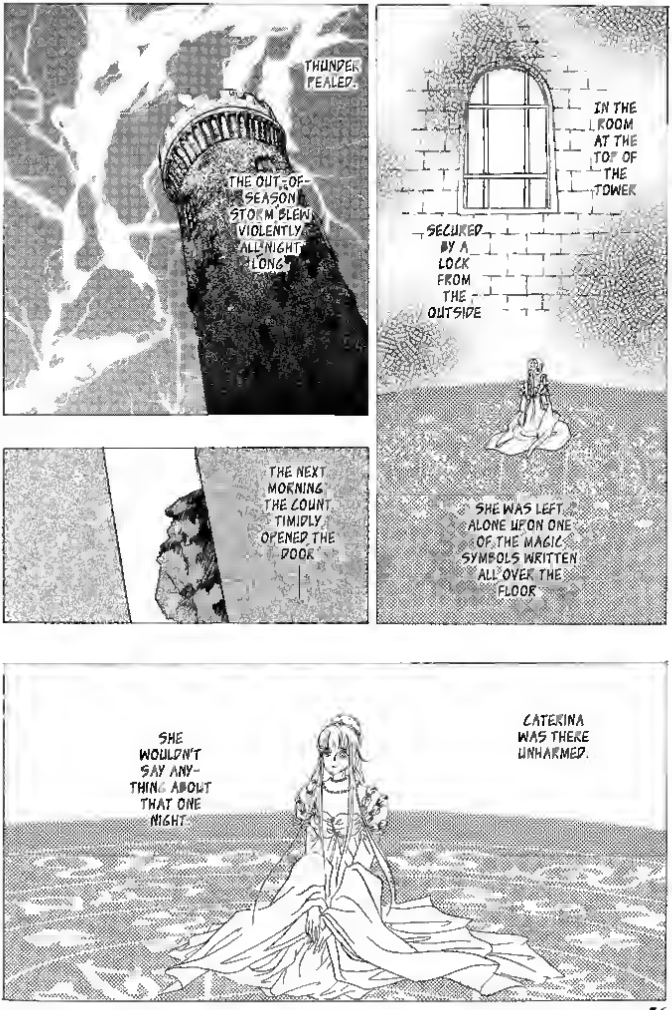

SHE REIGNED OVER US
RATHER WITH EYES FULL OF SCORNFUL HATRED
THAT WOMAN DIDN'T SPILL A SINGLE TEAR
WHEN HER FOURTH SON MARCO DIED
THAT WAS HER FIRST AND LAST SMILE THAT WE EVER SAW
NOW FORTUNA IS SECURE
WAS WHEN AURORA WAS BORN
THE SINGLE TIME OUR MOTHER SMILED
THAT
THAT'S RIDICULOUS
THERE WAS ANOTHER, SERA, WITHIN HER
IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, WHEN SHE DISCOVERED


THAT EXPRESSION ON THE VERGE OF DEATH...
THAT WAS TRULY LIKE THAT OF A WITCH.
AURORA.
SERA.
YOU TWO HAVE INHERITED THAT WOMAN'S BLOOD.


TH... THAT IS...
WELL!! ANSWER, BROTHER!
...THEN, BROTHER PIETRO...
WHAT OF SISTER-IN-LAW ISABELLA'S WORDS...
WHAT DID THE FIRST CATERINA 7 GENERATIONS AGO DO!?
THAT 150 YEARS AGO A WOMAN SOLD HER BODY TO THE DEVIL!?
COUNT FORTUNA FROM 8 GENERA-TIONS AGO.
TO BE PRECISE
THE ONE WHO MADE A CONTRACT WITH THE DEVIL WAS THAT CATERINA'S FATHER.


150 YEARS AGO, THIS LAND OF FORTUNA
...HAD COMPLETELY FALLEN INTO RUIN FROM FAMINE AND EPIDEMICS, AND FREQUENT WARS
MOREOVER IT WAS A SMALL KINGDOM SWAYING BETWEEN THE POPE AND THE EMPEROR
...CAME VISITING A LONE ALCHEMIST
TO THE OLD COUNT WHO WAS WEAKY IN BOTH MIND AND BODY
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING
LOREN-ZO!?


MY LORD, TO AVERT MISFORTUNE UPON YOUR FAMILY, YOU CAN ONLY RELY ON THE POWER OF THE DEVIL.
IN EXCHANGE FOR A VIRGIN'S SOUL...
THE PERPETUAL FLOURISHING OF THE FORTUNA FAMILY.
THE ALCHEMIST GAINED THE TRUST OF THE COUNT WITH A QUESTIONABLE EXPERIMENT.
SOMEHOW IT SEEMED THAT IN HER WAS THE PERFECT CANDIDATE...
SHE CONTINUALLY REFUSED THE REPEATED MARRIAGE PROPOSALS THAT HER FATHER RECOMMENDED
THAT WAS CATERINA
AT THE TIME, THE COUNT HAD THREE SONS AND, THE YOUNGEST, A SINGLE DAUGHTER.
IT SEEMS SHE WISHED TO WILLINGLY BECOME THE DEVIL'S SACRIFICE
RATHER THAN BE A PAWN IN A POLITICAL MARRIAGE


THUNDER PEALED.
THE OUT-OF-SEASON STORM BLEW VIOLENTLY ALL NIGHT LONG.
IN THE ROOM AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER
SECURED BY A LOCK FROM THE OUTSIDE
SHE WAS LEFT ALONE UPON ONE OF THE MAGIC SYMBOLS WRITTEN ALL OVER THE FLOOR
THE NEXT MORNING THE COUNT TIMIDLY OPENED THE DOOR
CATERINA WAS THERE UNHARMED.
SHE WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT ONE NIGHT.


HAS SHE CONCEIVED THE DEVIL'S CHILD
!!
BUT CATERINA WAS PREGNANT.
THE COUNT FELT HORROR AT WHAT HE HAD DONE.
AND CONFINED HIS TAINTED DAUGHTER IN THE TOWER
THAT YEAR THE PROSPERITY OF THE FORTUNA FAMILY BEGAN
HOWEVER, THE TRAGEDIES BEGAN AT THE SAME TIME
FIRST, CATERINA'S NEXT OLDER BROTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE.


BECAME THE POSSESSION OF CATERINA'S DAUGHTER
THE CHILD OF THE DEVIL
WHO WAS THE ONLY BLOOD RELATIVE
THUS THE FORTUNA FAMILY
AND AT LAST, THE COUNT HIMSELF SUFFERED AN UNTIMELY DEATH.
THE REMAINING BROTHERS ALSO DIED ONE BY ONE FROM SICKNESS OR ACCIDENT.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE DEVIL FULFILLED THE CONTRACT.
WITH HIGH QUALITY WINE AND THE DISCOVERY OF NEW MINES, THE DOMAIN BECAME RICH, AND THE COUNT'S FAMILY PROSPERED.
CONTRARY TO THE MISFORTUNE THAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE FAMILY, THEREAFTER THIS LAND ALONE WAS SPARED FROM FAMINE AND EPIDEMICS
MOREOVER ALL OF THE BROTHERS WHO OBJECTED TO THAT AND TRIED TO STEAL THE TITLE MET WITH MYSTERIOUS DEATHS
FOLLOWING THE WILL OF THE FIRST GENERATION CATERINA, THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY WAS SUCCEEDED GENERATION AFTER GENERATION BY THE ELDEST DAUGHTER


HOWEVER, IN THE 150TH YEAR, A DISASTER OCCURRED.
THAT WAS THE CURSE OF CATERINA, WHO HAD BECOME A WITCH.
IT WAS HER REVENGE AGAINST HER FATHER AND BROTHERS, THE MEN OF HER FAMILY WHO HAD WRONGED HER!!
THE 8TH GENERATION DAUGHTER WAS A TWIN
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE SHOCK OF YOUR DECEASED MOTHER.
WHICH IS CATERINA'S LEGITIMATE HEIR


OF COURSE IT'S BECAUSE I INVESTIGATED BEFOREHAND.
I ARRIVED IN THIS LAND OF FORTUNA BY PURSUING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ALCHEMIST WHO INSTIGATED THE COUNT'S ACTIONS.
LORENZO ...!?
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT ...!?
TH... THAT'S RIGHT.
LIVING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SEAT OF THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY
BUT EVEN THOUGH WE SILENTLY LEFT OUR TRUE HOME BECAUSE OF THAT...
Thud
POW
BECAUSE THAT ALCHEMIST WAS THE MAN WHO, 150 YEARS AGO, STOLE THE CYPRUS ROYAL FAMILY'S TREASURE, THE "ELIXIR"


WHEN YOU SAID, WITH THE FACE OF A CLOSE FRIEND, "I WANT TO TRY THE WINE OF YOUR HOMELAND," THAT WAS--
THE REASON YOU BECAME FRIENDS WITH ME IN COLLEGE WAS ALWAYS WITH THAT INTENTION ...!?
THEN!
WE ARE BOTH TO BLAME THAT YOU WERE TRICKED AND BROUGHT ME HERE.
YES
NOW THEN, ELDER BROTHERS
SO LONG AS WE DON'T KNOW THE LEGITIMATE HEIR ...
BROTHER FEDERICO !?
DAMMIT


IN THE MANNER OF POOR OTTAVIO ..
NEXT, TO ONE AMONG YOU, A CALAMITY WILL
THE CURSE OF THE WITCH WILL BEFALL.


THEN SU... SURELY IT'S AURORA
O-OF COURSE THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE SERA, WHO'S TIMID AND FRAIL
AURORA WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KILL OTTAVIO!!


I ORIGINALLY HAD NO ATTACHMENTS TO THIS FAMILY.
EVEN IF YOU SAY I'M THE FEMALE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, ISN'T BEING UNABLE TO TAKE A SINGLE STEP BEYOND THIS DOMAIN THE SAME AS A PRISON?
AURORA IS ALSO THE REINCARNATION OF THE WITCH.
HOW CRUEL!!
AURORA..!?
ARE YOU LEAVING ME!?
LEAVING ME ALONE...!?
NO WAY
THE TITLE AND THE PROPERTY, I GIVE IT ALL TO SERA!!
THEREFORE, LORENZO!! TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS CASTLE!!
NO WAY
sob
sob


S—SUCH A TERRIBLE THING!
I REFUSE
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS.
WHICH IS THE DAUGHTER WHO POSESSES THE DEVIL'S BLOOD
C-CAN YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?
WHY DON'T WE CALL THE DEVIL ONCE MORE AND ASK HIM?
FINE!!
I WILL GO TO THE TOWER.
AURORA !?
PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME.
MAGIC SYMBOLS AND SPELLS
I'VE STUDIED BOTH BRIEFLY


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THE ONES WHOM THE BLACK-HAIRED LORENZO SAW IN THE VINEYARD'S CASTLE WERE THE BEAUTIFUL TWIN SISTERS POSESSING THE NAMES OF DAWN AND DUSK.

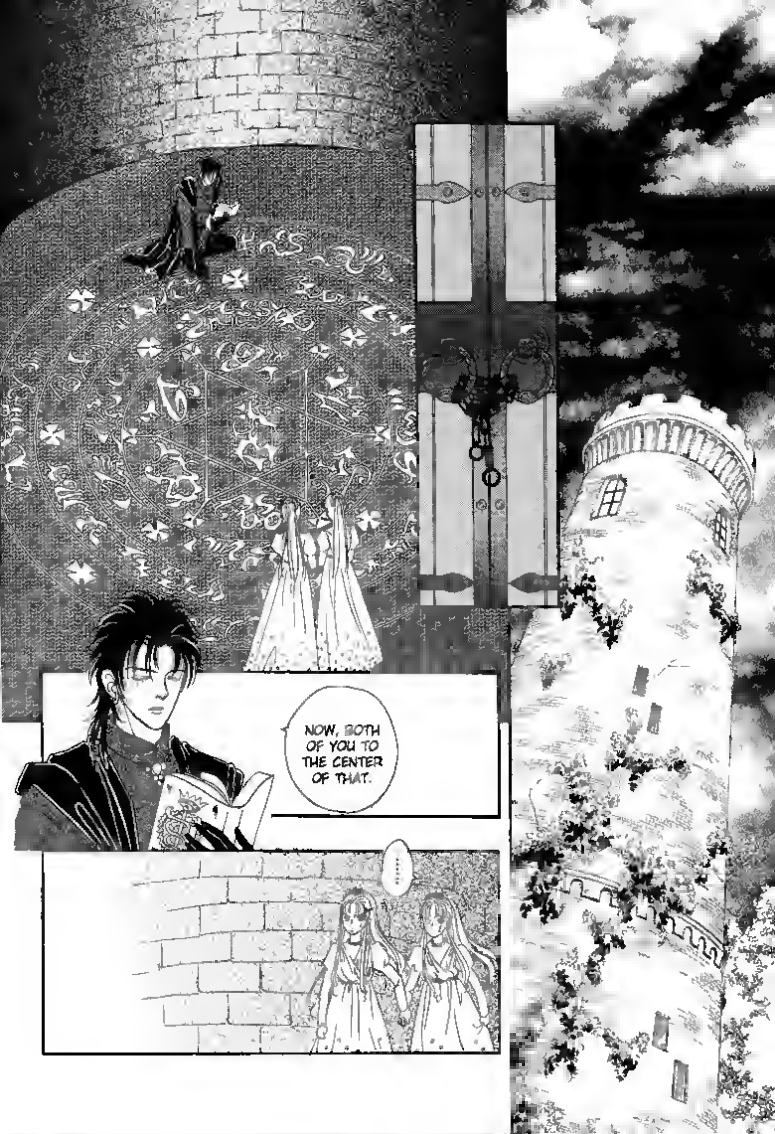


Labyrinth of Granacis

Elixir


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squeeze
IT'S ALRIGHT, SERA.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE WITCH'S CURSE.
I'LL SHOW THAT DEVIL!!
ALIRO-RA


NOW, BOTH OF YOU TO THE CENTER OF THAT.


FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST.
AND UPON THE NAME OF HOLY MOTHER MARIA.
OH BARON.
OH SATAN.
APPEAR BEFORE US.


COME FORTH, SATAN.
COME FORTH.
COME AND GRANT OUR WISH.
Pssh
Pssh
rumble
rumble


FLASH
COME FORTH, SATAN.
AAH ...


BLACK CLOTHES FLUTTERING IN THE SOUTH WIND
THE DEVIL WHO ALIGHTED
ALIRORA! SERA!!
I'VE COME TO SAVE YOU
BROTHER FEDERICO!


AS IF I WOULD HAND YOU TWO OVER TO THE DEVIL.
BRO-THER!!
...AH...
WAAAH-
SERA!?


AAAAAAAH
BOTH OF YOU GET BACK!!
LOREN-ZO!?


UUH ...
GRR
CATE-RINA.
THE ONE YOU WERE RESIDING IN WAS SERA?
... YES.
I DIDN'T THINK.
MY BODY AND SPIRIT WOULD BE SPLIT IN TWO
FURTHERMORE, THIS VESSEL WAS TOO WEAK, AND MY CONSCIOUSNESS WAS UNABLE TO SURFACE


HAAA
BUT THIS IS PERFECT
grab
NOW I'LL TRANSFER INTO THE HEALTHY BODY
flash
BEGONE, DEAD SPIRIT.
GRRR...
AAAH


HER BODY IS SERA!
WAIT!!
DON'T DO ANYTHING VIOLENT.
SHE'S MY PRECIOUS SISTER!!
FEDE-RICO!?
BRO-THER.
IN THIS PLACE WHERE I WAS LOCKED BY MY FATHER AND THE ALCHEMIST ..
150 YEARS AGO .. IN THE STORMY NIGHT
CATERINA ?


AS IF I WOULD HAND YOU OVER TO THE DEVIL.
BRO-THER
IT WAS MY NEXT OLDER BROTHER, RICCARDO
THE ONE WHO APPEARED WASN'T THE DEVIL
WH.. WHAT A THING TO
...AND TOOK HIS OWN LIFE
MY BROTHER TREMBLED IN FEAR AT THE DEPTH OF HIS SIN...
THE DEVIL'S CHILD WAS CONCEIVED!!
THAT NIGHT, THE CHILD OF INCEST BETWEEN ME AND MY TRUE BROTHER


I CAN'T !!
Hmm?
Hmm?
I MUST GIVE BIRTH TO THIS CHILD
Hmm?
ALTHOUGH I TRIED TO [illegible] AFTER MY BROTHER ...
EVEN IF I END UP IN HELL
I MUST RAISE THIS CHILD !!


FROM LONG BEFORE YOU HAD ALWAYS LOVED RICCARDO
AND RICCARDO ALSO --
--TRULY LOVED YOU. THE CHILD BORN BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU ...
SHOULD NOT BE A "CHILD OF SIN".
...NO!!
...THEN ...
TOSS
THE LORD WOULD NEVER HAVE FORGIVEN US.
YOU SHOULD THROW AWAY A GOD LIKE THAT.
...EH!?
clatter


COME TO MY COUNTRY.
DUE SOUTH FROM HERE
A WARM COUNTRY
FLOWERS BLOOMING IN PROFUSION
THE BLUE OCEAN, AND
A WHITE TEMPLE
WHERE GENEROUS GODS LIVE
TO THAT PARADISE


THERE, YOUR CHILD ...
WILL BE BLESSED BY ALL.


WHOA!
H--HUH?
I--!?
SERA--?
SERA!!
AURORA--?
BROTHER FEDERICO
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW.
CATERINA'S SOUL HAS LEFT ON A JOURNEY--
TO THE HEAVENS OF A RUINED COUNTRY


AH-CRAP!!
I FORGOT TO ASK CATERINA!
ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE "ELIXIR" ----!!
LOREN-ZO!?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU
I TOLD YOU, FEDE-RICO.
I'M SEARCHING FOR THE "ELIXIR".
Eh? Is that so?
THE POWER TO TURN BASE METALS INTO PRECIOUS METALS--
RED LIKE BLOOD
ETERNAL YOUTH AND LIFE!?
AND IT IS SAID TO BE THE WONDER DRUG OF ETERNAL YOUTH AND LIFE
I HEARD RUMORS OF THE FEMALE HEAD OF THE FORTUNA FAMILY, WHO HAD RULED FOR 150 YEARS WITH THE SAME APPEARANCE.
AND I THOUGHT---- COULD IT BE THAT CATERINA, IN A RITUAL TO SUMMON THE DEVIL, HAD TAKEN SOME OF IT?


...WAS DEEPLY DELUDED AND WANDERED FOR 150 YEARS...
CATERINA, IN ORDER TO PROTECT HER OWN LOVE AND HER CHILD'S FUTURE...
BUT IT SEEMS MY AIM WAS OFF.
UH... SO WE TWO..
YES, THE WITCH'S CURSE IS DISPELLED.
HOW-EVER!
AND CONTINUE TO BE AS LOVING OF EACH OTHER AS USHAS AND RATRI.
YOU TWO SHOULD NOW LIVE FREELY.



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Elixir 1
The Labyrinth of Granacis

by Matsuri Akino



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The Labyrinth of Granacis

by Matsuri Akino

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Labyrinth
of Granacis

NOTES, NOTES, AND MORE NOTES

Granada, Granacis, Pomegranate The kanji for "Granacis" means "pomegranate" and the "pomegranate" fruit in Spanish is called "granada" which was brought to Spain by the Moors and later the city of Granada was named after it

The Rubaiyat The Rubaiyát is a collection of poems by the Persian mathematician and astronomer Omar Khayyám (1048-1123) "Rubaiyat" means "quatrains verses of four lines

You can read the quatrains here http://www.kellscraft.com/rubaiyatcontent.html

Now since there are different editions of it and Akino-sensei used a very arcaic Japanese version (on page 100), we didn't have a clue of what was the exact quatrain she was referring to, so we decided to use the one with the "closest" meaning Here's the literal meaning



Our coming
If left to us, will not come
Our leaving, as well- If left to us ...
We will never depart

So... er... uhm... ok.... And then Lorenzo mentioned on page 101 a second something of the Rubaiyat "Dan" literally means "step, stage, notch or column" but is occasionally used to designate chapters or scrolls, etc We went for scrolls ^^,

If anybody knows something about all this, please let us know!
-ScarletxD-

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Thanks to Quethiril, syzyxy, SakkaOnna, even Akiko lol, and anybody else getting Rubaiyat nightmares ^_x


December 1491, Toledo
THE SUN, UPRIGHT
A VAST FORTUNE SHALL BE BROUGHT FROM THE WEST ... THAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS CARD, YOUR MAJESTY.
HMM ...
VERY WELL
WEST ...?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE WAS A BRAGGING SAILOR NAMED COLUMBUS OR SOMETHING THAT SAID HE REACHED INDIA BY TRAVELING WESTWARDS...
YES.
LORENZO, I WILL PROMISE YOU!

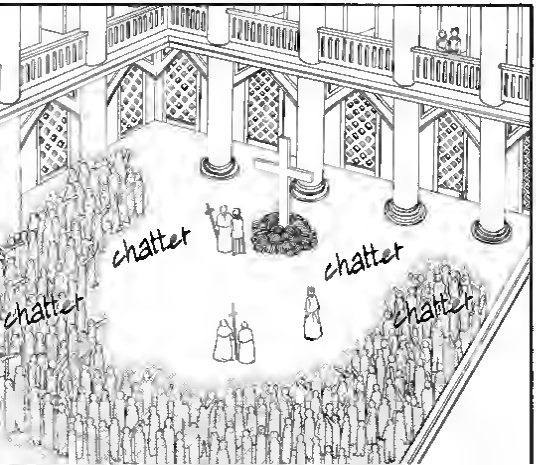
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AH... BUT THE ISLAMIC KING BOABDIL HAS REPEATEDLY IGNORED COUNSEL TO SURRENDER AND ADOPTED A POSITION OF TOTAL RESISTANCE...
AT THIS RATE, HE MAY BECOME DESPERATE AND COMMIT SUICIDE BY SETTING FIRE TO THE ALHAMBRA PALACE.
THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE!!
ESPECIALLY FOR ME! I DO NOT WISH TO FIGHT ANY MORE USELESS BATTLES
AND THE TREASURY IS ALMOST EMPTY
BESIDES
THE THING VISITORS TO THAT LAND UNANIMOUSLY PRAISE
THE ALHAMBRA PALACE
LIKE THE REPRODUCTION OF "KING SOLOMON'S PALACE"
OR THE "GARDEN OF ELAM" ISLAM'S LEGENDARY CITY
ALHAMBRA IS ALSO A PARADISE ON EARTH
I WISH TO ACQUIRE ALHAMBRA WITHOUT BLOODSHED
SO THEN, LORENZO...
...YES?

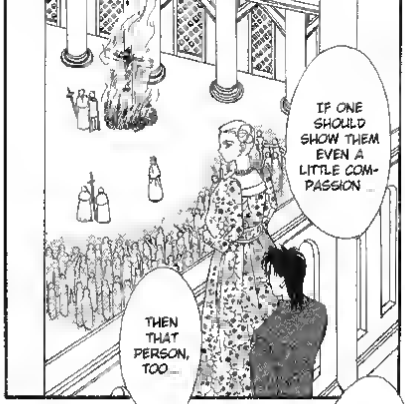

WHAT!?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO BRING OUT THE "BOOK" YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FIRST?
BEFORE GRANADA HAS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF BEING BURNED
ALSO ...
AFTER THAT, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO HEAR MY REQUEST....
OF COURSE I WILL PROVIDE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR GOING TO GRANADA
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO RESCUE FROM ALHAMBRA A SPANISH NOBLEWOMAN NAMED ANTONIA
SHE VISITED THREE YEARS AGO, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO NEWS OF HER SINCE
YES ...
SO, IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S NOT A REQUEST BUT A COMMAND
IF YOU CAN BRING HER OUT SAFELY ...
OF COURSE, THE ASTROLOGER'S "BOOK" ...
WILL BE YOURS AS A REWARD ...


IT IS A SIGNAL TO EXECUTE THE MAN FOUND GUILTY BY THE INQUISITION.
THAT BELL IS...?
clang clang
HOW IS IT...? YOU SHOULD GO WATCH AS WELL.


chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter

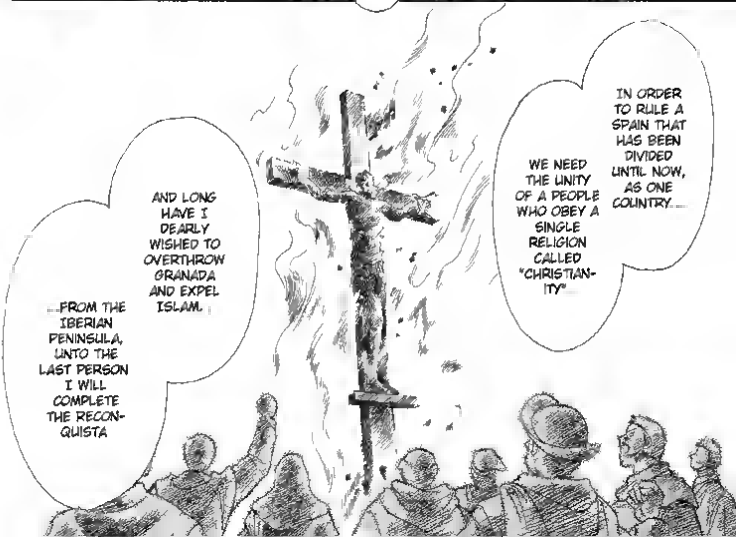

YE HERETIC WHO OPPOSES OUR GOD, LORD OF ALL CREATION.
WALA! WALA!
WALA! WALA!
UGH
WHACK
COME... THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE
IF YOU RENOUNCE YOUR HERETICAL BELIEFS, I WILL HEAR YOUR CONFESSION!
I...
I SWEAR TO MY GOD THAT I HAVE COMMITTED NO SINS...!!


WHOOSH
WAAAAAA
OOOOOOOO


IF ONE SHOULD SHOW THEM EVEN A LITTLE COM-PASSION...
THEN THAT PERSON, TOO...


YOU MAY NOT LOOK AWAY!


...WILL BE PROSECUTED FOR "HERESY"


IN ORDER TO RULE A SPAIN THAT HAS BEEN DIVIDED UNTIL NOW, AS ONE COUNTRY...
WE NEED THE UNITY OF A PEOPLE WHO OBEY A SINGLE RELIGION CALLED "CHRISTIAN-ITY"
AND LONG HAVE I DEARLY WISHED TO OVERTHROW GRANADA AND EXPEL ISLAM.
...FROM THE IBERIAN PENINSULA, UNTO THE LAST PERSON I WILL COMPLETE THE RECON-QUISTA


clang
clang
FOR THE GLORY OF OUR GOD
AMEN
AMEN.


Gra-
nada
ARABS, SPANIARDS, EVEN JEWS ARE LIVING SIDE BY SIDE
EVEN THOUGH THE SPANISH SOLDIERS MAY ATTACK TONIGHT
IS THIS A TOWN ON THE EVE OF WAR---?
I say, well!
Ma, too!
I'll buy some!
I HEAR THE SPANISH SOLDIERS HAVE CROSSED THE ROTA RIVER.
YAAA! DON'T FALTER, PEOPLE! GRAB YOUR SWORDS, LOAD YOUR BULLETS!
AND I THOUGHT WE'D FINALLY ARRIVED IN A LAND WHERE WE COULD LIVE PEACEFULLY WHAT WILL BECOME OF US---
YOU JEWS CAN LIVE HERE AS YOU HAVE IF YOU PAY TAXES, RIGHT?
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE MUSLIMS DON'T WISH TO BE EXILED, WE EITHER CONVERT OR COMMIT MASS SUICIDE---
HEY
SUGAR CANDY
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME SWEETS?


I CAN'T IMAGINE IT BEING SOMETHING QUEEN ISABELLA WOULD BE SO STUBBORN ABOUT...
WHAT ISN'T IT JUST A FORT MADE OF RUST-COLORED STONE?
AND THAT MUST BE THE ALHAMBRA PALACE.
There's no doubt that Lady Antonia has been captured and made a part of the king's harem
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
IN ANY CASE HOW DO I GET INTO THE CASTLE?
BE CAREFUL! KING BOABDIL IS A RESOURCEFUL MAN WHO STOLE THE THRONE FROM HIS OWN FATHER AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 5!
IF A MAN SNUCK INTO THE HAREM, IT'D AUTOMATICALLY BE A CAPITAL CRIME
HE'S A LECHER WITH HUNDREDS OF CONCUBINES IN HIS HAREM.
NOT ONLY THAT!
ALL THE MEN WHO WORK IN ALHAMBRA ARE SAVAGES WHO ARE EUNUCHS OR HAVE BEEN BLINDED!
RESOURCEFUL MAN!
LECHER!
SAVAGES!


*Please read the notes on the Rubaiyat on pg 86
AND, AS THE COCK CREW,
THOSE WHO STOOD BEFORE THE TAVERN SHOUTED-- "OPEN THEN THE DOOR!"
"YOU KNOW HOW LITTLE WHILE WE HAVE TO STAY,"
"AND, ONCE DEPARTED, MAY RETURN NO MORE."
THAT'S THE RUBAIYAT, RIGHT?





Note Omar Khayyam was a 12th century mathematician and author of the Rubaiyat -Gareth nl


...I UNDERSTAND...!!
WHAT SPLENDID AMBITION...!!
ALRIGHT! IF THAT'S THE CASE, I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP
PLEASE COME WITH ME
OKAY
SUCKER ♫
THERE ARE MANY STREETS THAT LEAD TO THE PALACE, BUT...
IT'S BEST TO ENTER FROM THAT GATE.


EH!?
AH, THE GATE-KEEP-ERS
I'LL LEAVE YOU NOW.
A CARVING OF THE PALM OF A HAND...?
AH...
UM... EXCUSE ME...!?
IF YOU SHOW THIS BRACE-LET, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS TO THE MAIN GATE OF THE INNER SHRINE.
FARE-WELL.
BUT HE MUST BE THE SON OF A PRETTY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL...
I DON'T REALLY GET IT
P-
PLEASE ENTER.
AH-
WHAT IF THAT WAS THE KING'S PAGE...!?
Does he have THOSE tastes as well!?
EWW
EH!?
WHAT A SUSPI-CIOUS GUY!
clack
WHO ARE YOU!?
I DON'T SPEAK ARABIC
EXCUSE ME... UM
!!
THAT BRACE-LET...

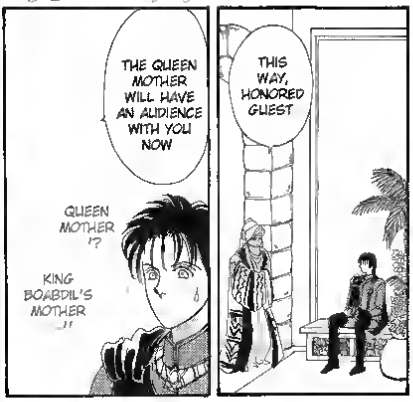

HM-
THE CHOKING FRAGRANCE FROM FLOWERS OF SO MANY COLORS

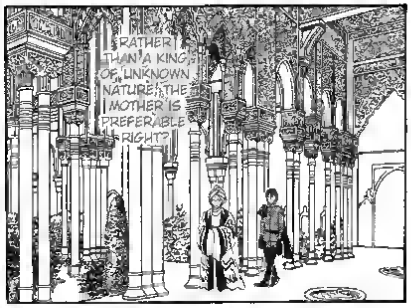

ha ha ha ha
ho ho ho ho ho
twitter
twitter
IN THE WHITE SNOW OF THE SIERRA NEVADA, THE ARABESQUE IS DIFFUSELY REFLECTED
MINGLES THE BEAUTIFUL VOICES OF ODALISQUES
WITH THE CHIRPING OF BIRDS
Note: An odalisque is a concubine in a harem. -Quethir!


LIKE QUEEN ISABELLA SAID
ON THIS SIDE OF THE GATE IS A WORLD COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I SAW FROM BELOW THE PALACE
THIS IS TRULY THE "GARDEN OF ELAM" ON EARTH!!
JUST AS I THOUGHT
THE ELIXIR MUST BE HERE!!

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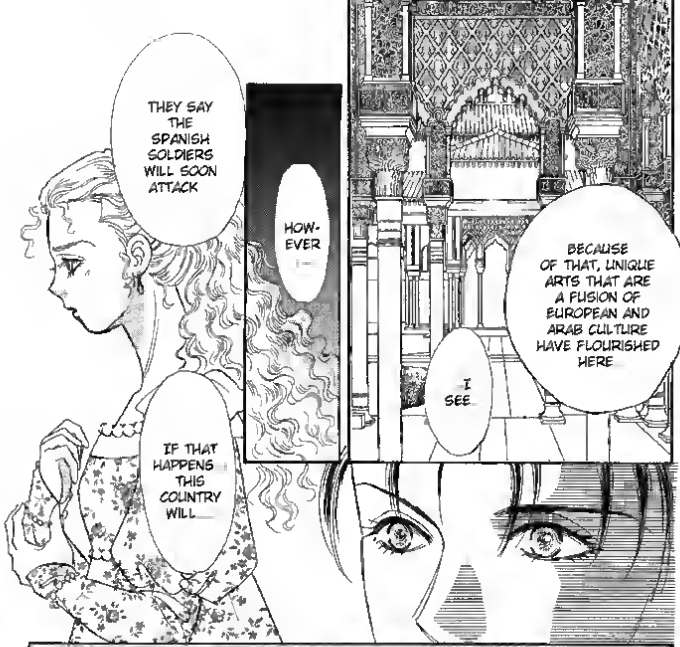



I HOPE YOU ARE IN GOOD HEALTH, YOUR MAJESTY.
I HAVE TRAVELED HERE FROM AFAR UNDER THE ORDERS OF THE RULER OF VENETIA.
THESE ARE GIFTS THAT WERE MEANT FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY OF CYPROS, WHICH WAS ANNEXED BY VENETIA LAST YEAR.
PLEASE ACCEPT THEM
WELL, I GUESS THAT PEARL'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF A DOVE'S EGG.
ARE THOSE KINDS OF CLOTHES POPULAR IN VENETIA?
HMHM... THE LAST KING OF CYPROS WAS CERTAINLY OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH*
INGRATIATING HIMSELF WITH THE SULTAN OF CAIRO, BEING FLATTERED BY THE RULER OF VENETIA, HE ULTIMATELY HAD HIS COUNTRY STOLEN...
SO? WERE YOU SENT HERE TO OBSERVE THE BATTLE, OR TO ENJOY THE SIGHTS?
※ A concubine's child
NOT AT ALL... VICTORY OR DEFEAT IN BATTLE IS SIMPLY GOD'S WILL...
WHAT A CUNNING OLD LADY


THANK YOU, I AM OVER-JOYED
VERY WELL YOU MAY LOOK FOR AND TAKE THESE "MATHEMATICIAN'S ORIGINAL TEXTS" OF WHICH YOU SPEAK
※ Doña is a title for Spanish women similar to "miss"
DOÑA ANTONIA! COME HERE
TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THE ARCHIVES---- I KNOW, I WILL LEAVE IT TO THAT GIRL
.....
YES, YOUR MAJESTY
ANTONIA ?!



* The historically famous Jezya (poll tax)


THEY SAY THE SPANISH SOLDIERS WILL SOON ATTACK
HOW-EVER I—
IF THAT HAPPENS THIS COUNTRY WILL—
BECAUSE OF THAT, UNIQUE ARTS THAT ARE A FUSION OF EUROPEAN AND ARAB CULTURE HAVE FLOURISHED HERE
I SEE


I AM NOT ONE OF THE KING'S ODAL-ISQUES.
EH!?
FREE!?
I AM FREE RIGHT NOW.
WOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY IF THIS CITY BECAME A TERRI-TORY OF SPAIN?
YOU WOULD ALSO BE FREE AND ABLE TO RETURN HOME

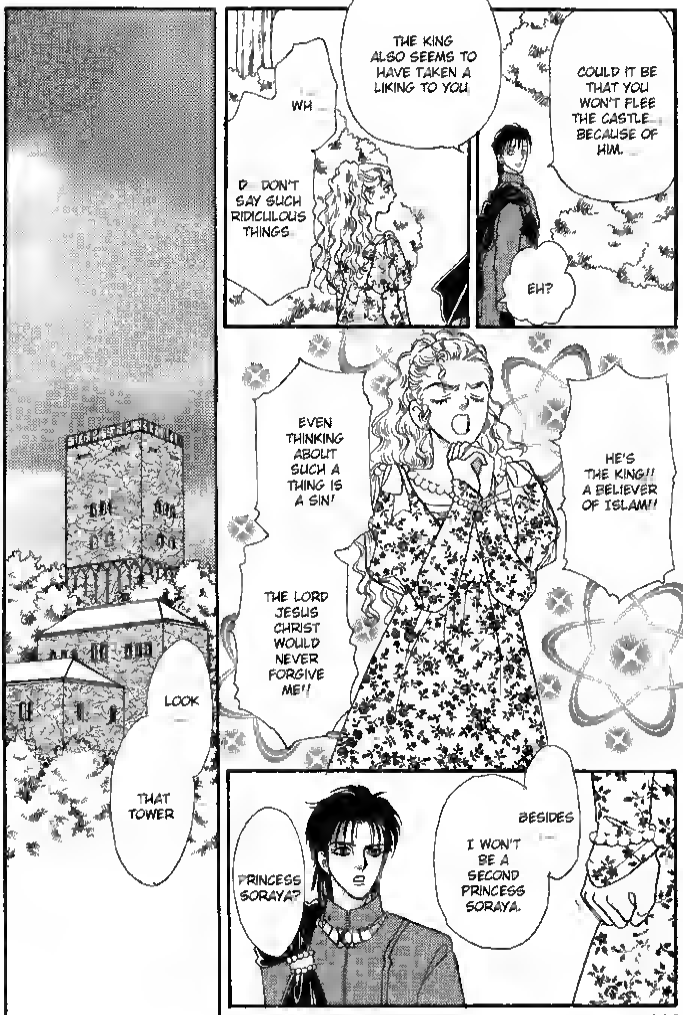

REALLY...!! COULD IT BE...
THANKS TO YOU
HERE IS THE BRACELET BACK
AH, FROM BEFORE
HEY, IT'S YOU
SO YOU WERE ABLE TO ENTER WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
tweet!
DID YOU GO OUTSIDE THE PALACE BY YOURSELF AGAIN?
YOUR MAJESTY...!!
EH!?
YOUR MAJESTY...!?


I...
I WAS IGNO-RANT.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDE-NESS...
SAVAGES
LEGIER
ALEGOUR-EDOH, MAU
TH... THAT'S ALRIGHT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO TRICK YOU,
BUT I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SNEAKING OUT
NEXT TIME...
THERE IS NO TIME LEFT...
NEXT TIME
REALLY! TO GO WALKING AROUND WITHOUT COMPANIONS WHEN SOLDIERS ARE ABOUT TO ATTACK!
HA HA HA!
IF QUEEN AISHA KNEW ABOUT THIS...
D-DOÑA ANTONIA, PLEASE, ANYTHING BUT THAT
PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET FROM MOTHER.
N-NEXT TIME I GO OUT, I'LL DEFINITELY INVITE YOU, SO...
NOW, WHAT SHALL I DO?


A... AH YES, LORENZO
ANTONIA IS ALSO A SCHOLAR OF ARABIAN LITERATURE, SO I'M SURE SHE ALSO KNOWS ABOUT THE ANTHOLOGY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
HUH... WASN'T IT A MATH BOOK...?
AH N-NO.
O... OH, SO YOU ALSO READ POETRY...
AHEM
WELL... ARE YOU GOING TO SAY IT'S "UNWOMANLY"?
NOT AT ALL
BEFORE THE TRUTH OF LEARNING, MEN, WOMEN, AND ALL PEOPLES SHOULD BE EQUALS
THE INTELLIGENCE THAT RADIATES FROM WITHIN MAKES YOU SHINE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFULLY.



Night Exile
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LOOK
THAT TOWER
PRINCESS SORAYA?
BESIDES I WON'T BE A SECOND PRINCESS SORAYA.
EVEN THINKING ABOUT SUCH A THING IS A SIN!
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WOULD NEVER FORGIVE ME!!
HE'S THE KING!! A BELIEVER OF ISLAM!!
WH
D DON'T SAY SUCH RIDICULOUS THINGS
THE KING ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.
EH?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU WON'T FLEE THE CASTLE BECAUSE OF HIM.


SHE WAS FALSELY ACCUSED OF ADULTERY WITH A YOUNG NOBLEMAN FROM THE IBN HELASEH FAMILY.
BUT SHE INCITED THE ANGER OF HIS LEGAL WIFE, QUEEN AISHA.
Though I can't say this to my lovely
PRINCESS SORAYA WAS A CHRISTIAN SLAVE GIRL
BUT SHE WON THE PREVIOUS KING'S... BOABDIL'S FATHER'S AFFECTION, CONVERTED TO ISLAM, AND BECAME HIS CONCUBINE.
FOR THE SIN OF ADULTERY, PRINCESS SORAYA WAS LOCKED IN THAT TOWER.
AND THE ENTIRE IBN HELASEH FAMILY WAS SENTENCED TO DECAPITATION—!
THEY SAY THAT EVERY NIGHT YOU CAN HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE DEAD PRINCESS SORAYA PLAYING HER HARP
OR THAT THE BLOOD SPILLED BY THE IBN HELASEH FAMILY COMES GUSHING UP FROM THE FOUNTAIN IN THE GARDEN.
AND, EVEN NOW...


EVEN THOUGH THE ENEMY SOLDIERS WILL SOON BE RIGHT IN FRONT OF US,
SURELY THIS PLACE IS A PARADISE SEPARATE FROM THE REAL WORLD, OR,
LIKE A RIPENED RICHLY SCENTED FRUIT, NEARLY ROTTEN JUST WAITING TO FALL


LORENZO
HAVE YOU EATEN YET?
YOUR MAJESTY.
I DIDN'T THINK THE FOLLOWERS OF ISLAM WOULD PRODUCE SUCH FINE WINE.
HAHAH... FINE POETRY IS BORN OF FINE WINE.
THE KING'S SEAT IS FAR AWAY, BEHIND A CURTAIN.
King
HOLDING A CONVERSATION IS LIKE A WORD GAME
HOWEVER, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT KING BOABDIL'S TRUE CHARACTER HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD BY OUTSIDE COUNTRIES.
SO? HAVE YOU FOUND THE "BOOK" YOU'RE SEEKING?
WELL... THERE ARE A LOT OF BOOKS IN THE COLLECTION...
...AND WHILE LISTENING TO DONA ANTONIA'S EXPLANATIONS, NIGHT FELL.
YES, TIME PASSES IN A HEARTBEAT WHEN SPEAKING WITH HER.
TRULY A WISE WOMAN.
YOUR MAJESTY...
WHY DIDN'T YOUR MAJESTY MAKE ANTONIA A NOBLE CONCUBINE OF THE HAREM?
...EH?


THAT IS THE OFFICIAL STANCE, BUT IN ACTUALITY THERE ARE ALSO MISTRESSES AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN AMONG THE CHRISTIAN WORLD.
MORE-OVER... WITH YOUR POWER AS KING
ONE OR TWO SPANISH GIRLS
SH...SHE IS A DEVOUT FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.
SURELY SHE WOULD NOT FORGIVE THE CUSTOM OF HAVING A POLYGAMOUS HAREM.
LORENZO!
I... I WILL--
I WILL NOT BE THAT "KING" FOR MUCH LONGER.
WE ARE FATED TO PERISH ALONG WITH THIS CASTLE
YOUR MAJESTY


BUT YOUR MAJESTY, THERE IS STILL TIME
ISN'T THERE STILL THE OPTION TO SURRENDER TO SPAIN AND RELINQUISH THE CASTLE WITHOUT BLOODSHED!?
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU AND ANTONIA AND THOSE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE TOWN
...YOU WILL ALL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE...
SURRENDER WITHOUT FIGHTING, YOU SAY...!?
SUCH A DISGRACEFUL THING....
MOTHER... WOULD NEVER ALLOW SUCH A THING.
!?


THE ONE WHO KILLED THE INNOCENT SORAYA AND IBN HELASEH—
—WAS MY MOTHER.
—CAN YOU HEAR IT AS WELL?
THE SOUND OF THAT HARP—
HUH?
MOTHER FEARED THAT FATHER WOULD PASS HIS THRONE TO SORAYA'S CHILD INSTEAD OF TO ME
THEREFORE SHE INCITED THE NOBLE FAMILIES THAT THE KING HAD ANGERED TO LEAD A COUP D'ETAT AND EXPELLED HER OWN HUSBAND FROM THE THRONE
THAT WAS WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD
AND WHEN FATHER'S AND MY UNCLE'S TROOPS COUNTERATTACKED THE ONE WHO RISKED HER LIFE TO PROTECT MY THRONE—— —WAS ALSO MOTHER
FOR MY SAKE, HER HANDS HAVE BEEN STAINED WITH BLOOD—
MOTHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN FIGHTING.


MOTHER WISHES FOR ME TO FIGHT UNTIL THE END AND DIE AS A PROUD KING OF ISLAM.
I...
CANNOT BETRAY MY MOTHER ...
YOUR MAJESTY ...
!!


PREPARE YOUR-SELF!
FWOOSH
WELL SPOKEN.
SUCH ARE THE DESCEN-DANTS OF MAHOMET.
!?
CLANG


YOUR MAJESTY!
HURRY, PLEASE RUN!
AH YES
P'DOO
UGH!
PANCK
YOUR MAJESTY !?
I'M ALRIGHT
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH
DAMN.

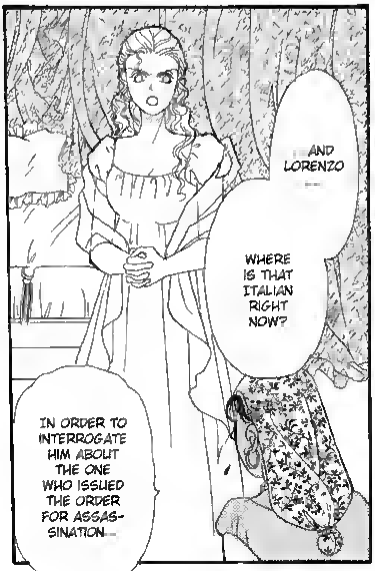

THERE'S SOME-ONE SUSPI-CIOUS
WHAT IS IT!?
JUMP
AH-WAIT!!
HURRY!
THE ATTACKER'S GETTING AWAY


CLACK
WHA-
YOU VILLAIN!
IDIOTS!
THE VILLAIN IS OVER THERE!!


YOUR MAJESTY!?
THE BLACK-CLOTHED VILLAIN
YOUR MAJESTY! YOU SAW IT TOO, DIDN'T YOU!?
SILENCE!! YOU'RE A FOREIGNER WHO SOUGHT TO KILL THE KING!!
WHAT!?
YOUR
YOUR MAJESTY ....!?


LORENZO WAS AN ASSASSIN WHO CAME TO KILL THE KING...!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
YES I HAD THOUGHT IT WAS SUSPICIOUS FOR HIM TO BE A STUDENT FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY IN TIMES LIKE THESE
HOW... HOW COULD THIS BE
THAT MAN WAS...!!
KING BOABDIL ....!!
WE... WELL, HOW IS THE KING?
YE...YES, HIS LIFE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN DANGER
BUT HE HAS A FEVER AND IS RESTING RIGHT NOW
...I SEE...


clank
clank
clank
CRASH


AND LORENZO...
WHERE IS THAT ITALIAN RIGHT NOW?
IN ORDER TO INTERROGATE HIM ABOUT THE ONE WHO ISSUED THE ORDER FOR ASSASSINATION...


THEY TOOK HIM TO PRINCESS SORAYA'S TOWER...


#NIGHT_EXILE@IRC.RIZONCHAT.NET
MANGAKA:
MATSURI AKINO
TRANSLATOR:
QUENTIN
SCANS/
CLEANER/
EDITOR:
SCARLEND
QC&ER:
SYLVY
PLEASE SUPPORT MATSURI AKINO AND BUY HER BOOKS!!


NOW THEN... THE NAME OF THE CLIENT WHO ASKED FOR THE KING'S ASSASSINATION.
WILL YOU CONFESS IT?
.. HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU!?
I DIDN'T DO IT.
THE CULPRIT WAS A MAN DRESSED IN BLACK WHO DISGUISED HIMSELF AS IBN HELASEH'S GHOST!


PSSH
A GHOST, YOU SAY!?
STOP SPEAKING NON-SENSE!
UGH
...WAIT A MINUTE, PARTNER.
IF WE MAKE HIM TALK TOO SOON, WE'LL HAVE LESS FUN.
LET'S START BY PULLING OUT HIS TONGUE ...
SMASH-ING HIS EAR-DRUMS ...
AND THEN GOUGING OUT HIS EYES.
NO NO, IT WILL LOOK BAD TO THE PUBLIC WHEN WE DRAG HIM TO HIS EXECUTION
FIRST WE SHOULD BREAK HIS FINGERS AND TOES ONE BY ONE
HEH HEH HEH
AND THEN WATER TORTURE?
OR BRANDING?
A CAT O' NINE TAILS WOULD BE GOOD, TOO.
HAHA.
TORTURE METHODS AREN'T SO DIFFERENT BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE EAST.


PSSH
YOU BAS-TARD!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY !?
IF IT WERE ME A SINGLE STROKE...
rattle
IDIOT
IF I REALLY MEANT TO KILL THE KING
DO YOU THINK I'D FAIL SO CLUMSILY?
.....


I SEE


HEH HEH HEH!
HAHA-HAHA... SO THAT WAS IT!
HEH-
SO THAT WAS IT...
THIS GUY...
HAS HE GONE MAD WITH FEAR...?
HURRY AND FINISH THIS
SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME
YOU ASKED FOR IT!
WE WON'T GO EASY ON YOU!
POW
PSSH
SMACK


WHAT'S WRONG?
ISLAM'S INTERROGATORS ARE MORE GENTLEMANLY THAN I THOUGHT


WHY
YOU


GAAAAAAAH!!
I-I CANNOT DO THAT COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS--
DOÑA ANTONIA !?
SHOW ME THE PRIS-ONER!
THERE'S SOMETHING I MUST TELL HIM--
BAM
LORENZO !!
AH--
AH-

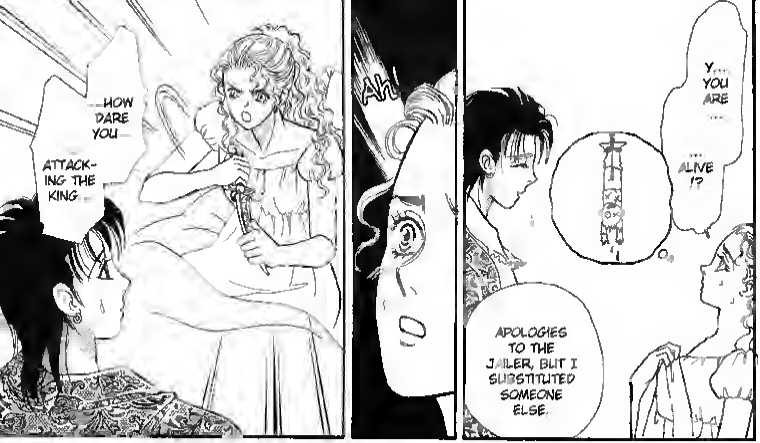

dizzy
.....
DOÑA ANTONIA !?



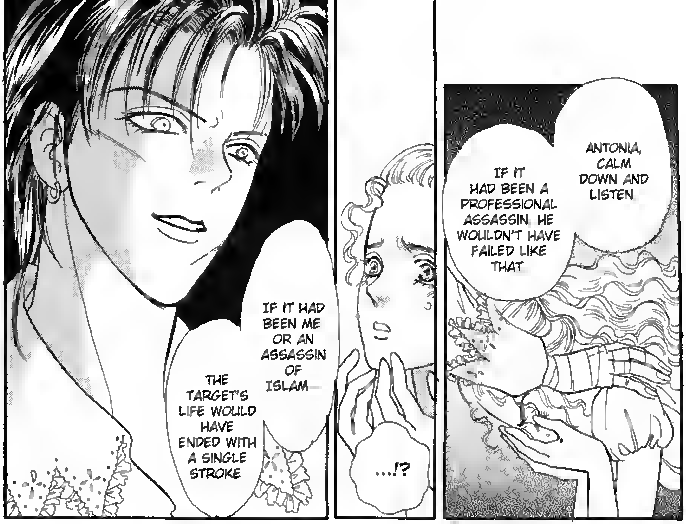
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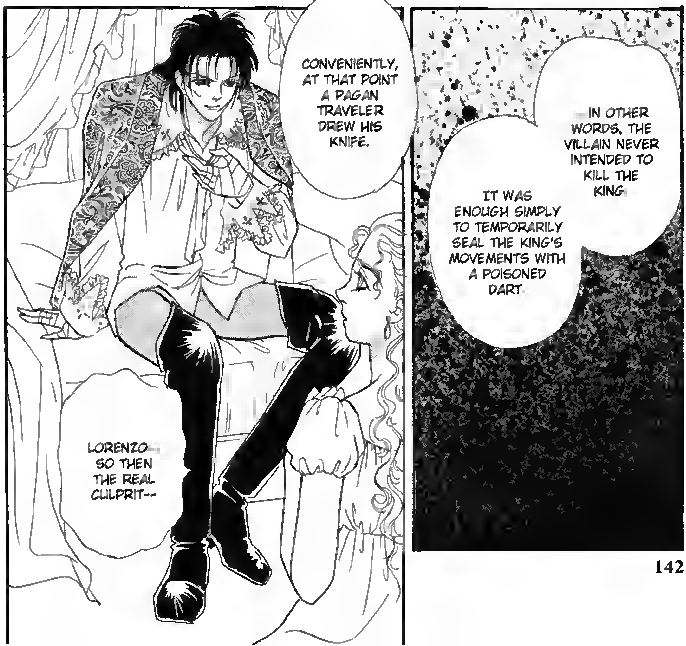

AS PROUD SOLDIERS OF ISLAM UNTO THE LAST PERSON!!
THAT IS ALSO THE WISH OF OUR KING.
WE MUST BRING THE HAMMER OF JUSTICE TO THOSE DISHONORABLE CHRISTIANS.
ALLAH AKBAR (HAIL ALLAH)
ALLAH AKBAR.


!
TONIA
NN
blink blink
DOÑA ANTONIA
AH-
LORENZO !?


HOW DARE YOU
ATTACKING THE KING
Ah!
Y... YOU ARE ... ALIVE!?
APOLOGIES TO THE JAILER, BUT I SUBSTITUTED SOMEONE ELSE.


HOW DARE YOU
HOW DARE YOU ... ATTACKING MY KING.
WAAAAAAH!!
WAIT!
STAB
ANTONIA!
LET GO!
PLEASE LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
NO WAY, YOU MURDERER...!!


ANTONIA, CALM DOWN AND LISTEN
IF IT HAD BEEN A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN, HE WOULDN'T HAVE FAILED LIKE THAT
...!?
IF IT HAD BEEN ME OR AN ASSASSIN OF ISLAM...
THE TARGET'S LIFE WOULD HAVE ENDED WITH A SINGLE STROKE

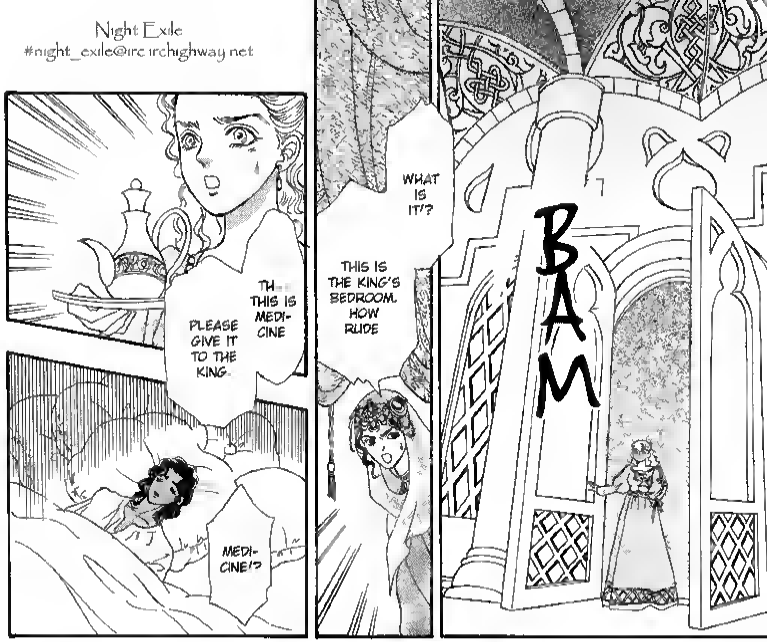

CONVENIENTLY, AT THAT POINT A PAGAN TRAVELER DREW HIS KNIFE.
LORENZO... SO THEN THE REAL CULPRIT--
...IN OTHER WORDS, THE VILLAIN NEVER INTENDED TO KILL THE KING.
IT WAS ENOUGH SIMPLY TO TEMPORARILY SEAL THE KING'S MOVEMENTS WITH A POISONED DART.


AS THINGS ARE, THE WAR WILL BEGIN IN ACCORDANCE WITH QUEEN AISHA'S EXPECTATIONS
THE QUEEN MOTHER'S!?
IF THAT HAPPENS, GRANADA AND ALHAMBRA WILL BE DESTROYED.
THEREFORE PLEASE MIX A MEDICINE FOLLOWING THIS PRESCRIPTION AND HAVE THE KING DRINK IT.
MEDICINE...?
NO I CAN'T TRUST YOU
IF THIS IS POISON...
THINK ABOUT IT ANTONIA YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
IF THE KING REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS WITH THAT ANTIDOTE...
MY OWN INNOCENCE WILL BE PROVEN
BESIDES
LORENZO!?
YOU'RE HURT...

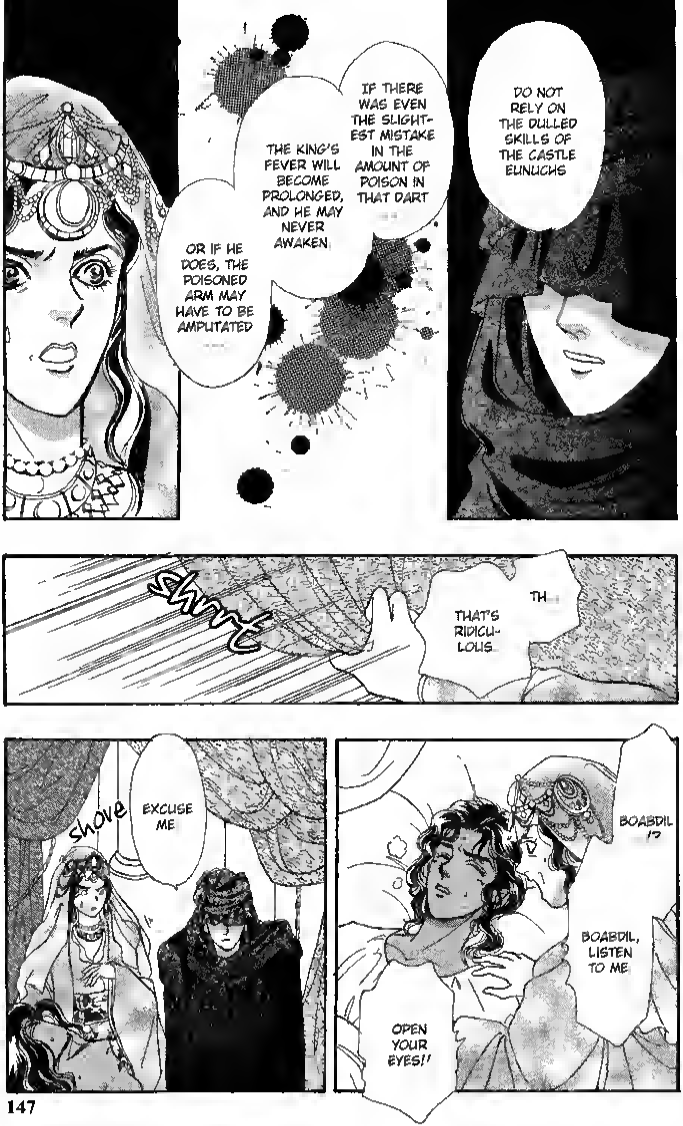

...IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
AH-
IF YOU COMPARE IT TO THE SCARS THAT I RECEIVED FROM THE CHRISTIANS.
THIS COUNTRY OF GRANADA CLOSELY RESEMBLES MY OWN HOMELAND OF CYPRUS.
SURROUNDED BY ISLAM ON THREE SIDES, AN ISLAND ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN
IT WAS BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN.
IT WAS A COUNTRY THAT BELONGED NOWHERE IN THIS WORLD.


I WANT TO PROTECT... THIS ALHAMBRA
I DON'T WANT TO... LOSE ANYONE ELSE
LORENZO

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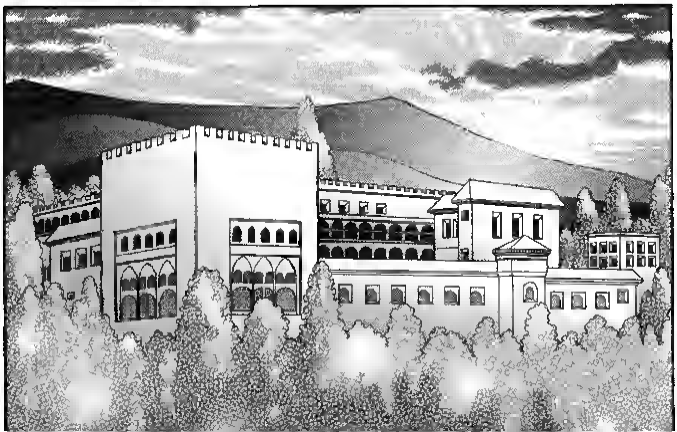





DO NOT RELY ON THE DULLED SKILLS OF THE CASTLE EUNUCHS
IF THERE WAS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE IN THE AMOUNT OF POISON IN THAT DART
THE KING'S FEVER WILL BECOME PROLONGED, AND HE MAY NEVER AWAKEN.
OR IF HE DOES, THE POISONED ARM MAY HAVE TO BE AMPUTATED
TH-
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS.
shove
EXCUSE ME
BOABDIL!?
BOABDIL, LISTEN TO ME!
OPEN YOUR EYES!!


ANTONIA, THE MEDICINE!
Y- YES
THIS WON'T DO
.....
sip
slurp

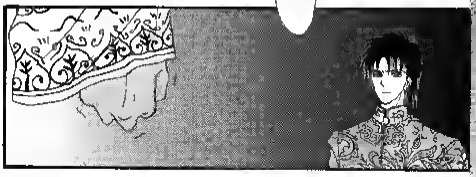

TO ALLAH
OR TO CHRIST.
TO EITHER, THAT HE LEND HIS ASSIS-TANCE.....
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO PRAY.
WHEW.




ANTO
A.
YOUR
MAJES-
TY!?
LORENZO
IT SEEMS
THAT ONCE
AGAIN
YOU
HAVE
SAVED
ME


SHE PROBABLY PLANNED TO BEGIN BATTLE WITH THE SPANISH SOLDIERS WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS
S... SUCH A THING
YOU MEAN THE BLACK-CLOTHED ASSASSIN WAS MY MOTHER!
AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, SHE HESITATED TO TAKE YOUR LIFE IT SEEMS...
IT'S A LIE!!
MOTHER WOULD NEVER DO SUCH A THING TO ME...
YOUR MAJESTY
IT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE KING
QUEEN AISHA DID NOT RISK HER LIFE TO PROTECT YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE HER SON.
TO THE LAST.
SHE MERELY WISHED TO REMAIN THE "MOTHER OF THE KING"
.....

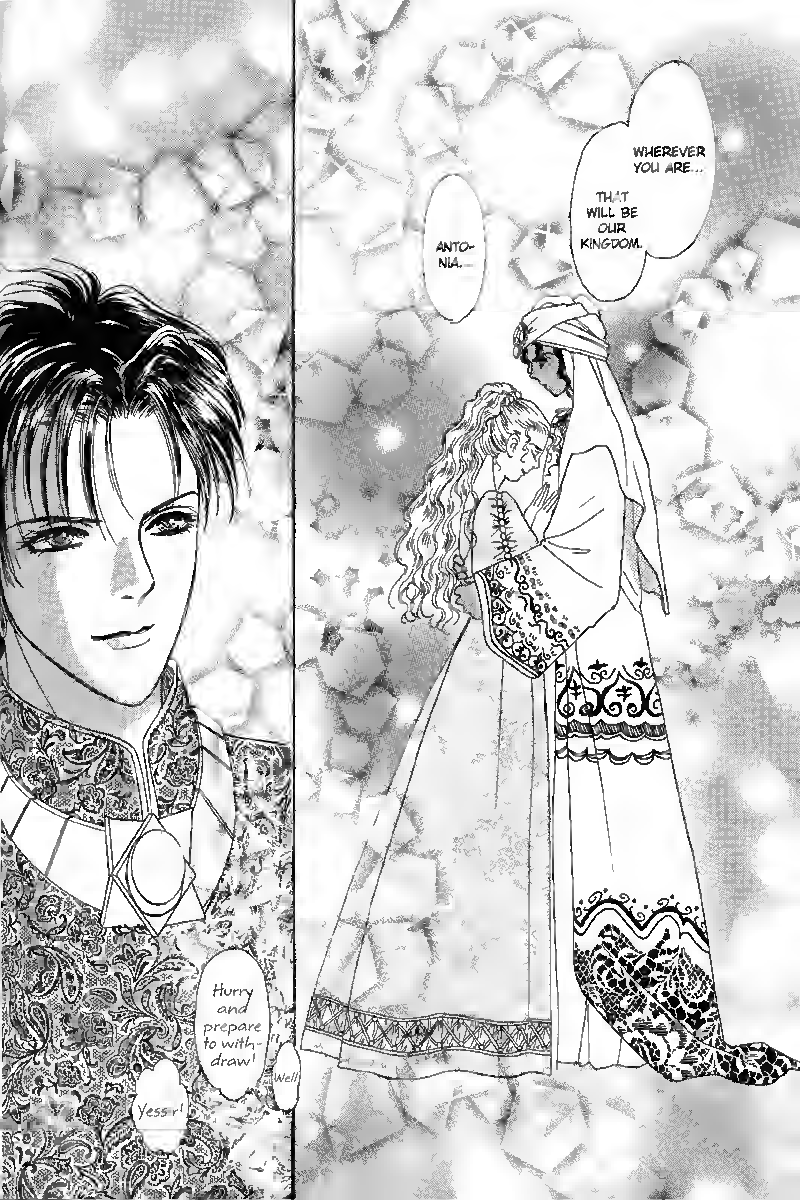



.....


I WILL SURRENDER ALHAMBRA-GRANADA TO SPAIN
YOUR MAJESTY...!?
MY KING!?


THEN...
IF I AM NO LONGER KING I WILL HAVE SERVED MY PURPOSE--


I...
...WILL LIVE WITH HAVING PEOPLE LAUGH THAT "ISLAM'S LAST KING WAS A COWARD"
KING BOABDIL...
I BELIEVE QUEEN ISABELLA'S PROMISE TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITION "NOT TO LAY A FINGER ON THE RESIDENTS OF THIS TOWN"...
B-BUT...
B...BUT YOU--
DOÑA ANTONIA!?
YOUR MAJES-TY...
I WILL GO WITH YOU.
IF YOU SAY YOU WILL THROW AWAY YOUR ISLAMIC PRIDE...
THEN I WILL ALSO BREAK THE LAWS OF THE BIBLE.

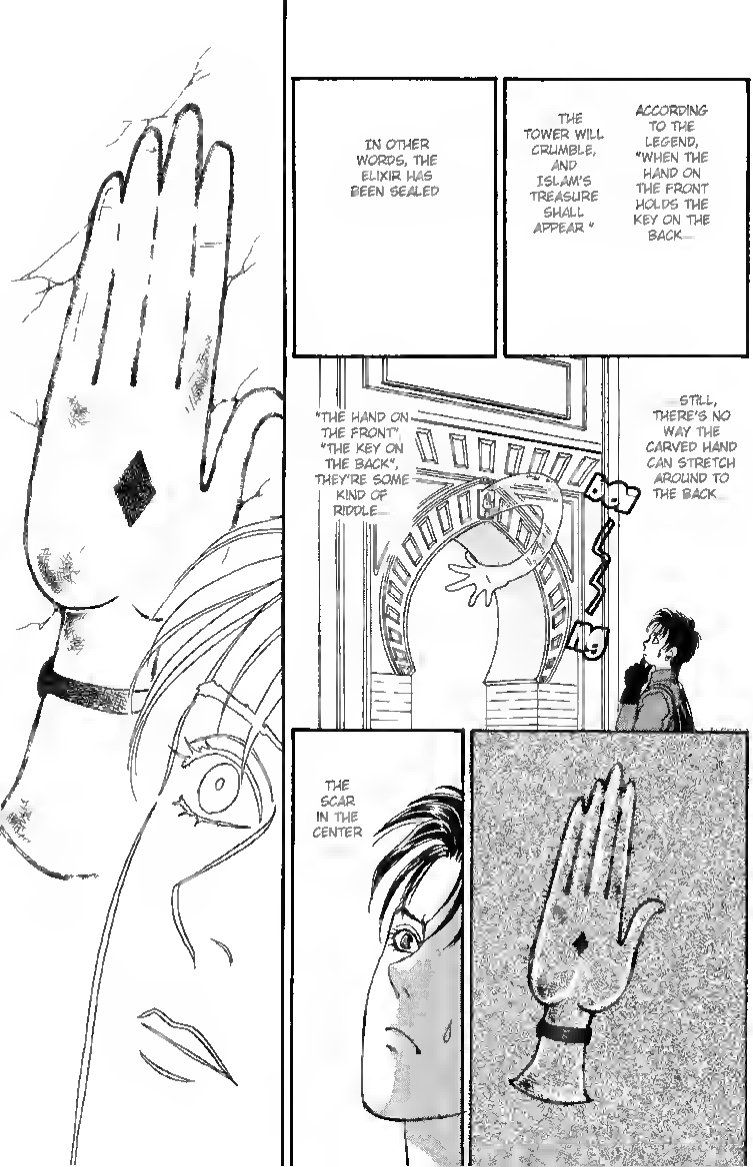

ANTONIA...
WHEREVER YOU ARE...
THAT WILL BE OUR KINGDOM.
Hurry and prepare to withdraw!
Yessir!
Well

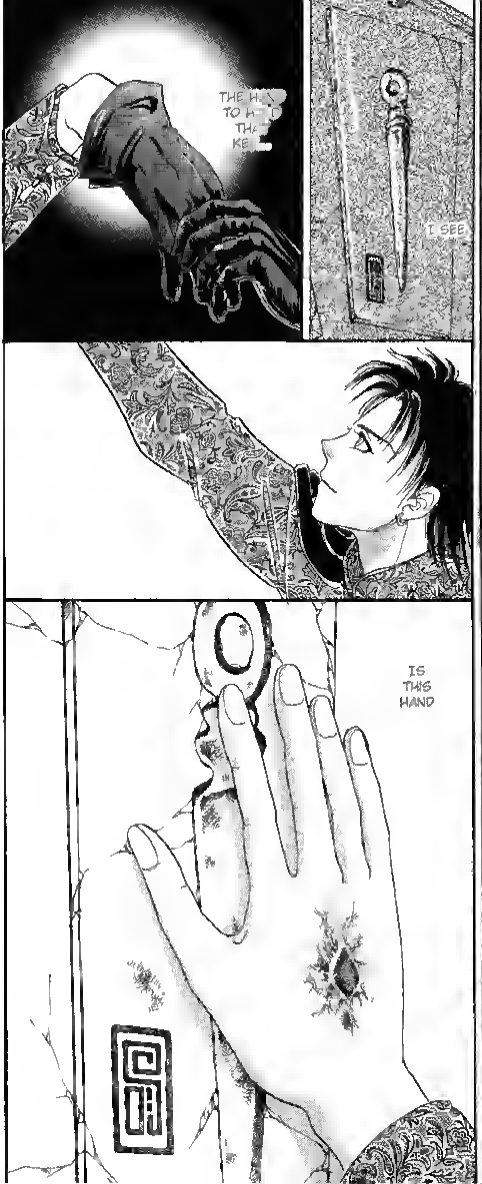

YOU TAKE CARE AS WELL
WE WILL CROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN AND GO TO AFRICA
YES... MAY YOU TWO BE HAPPY
OF COURSE, WITH MOTHER, TOO
HMM? IT WAS A MATH BOOK RIGHT?
AH! INCIDENTALLY, WHAT'S BECOME OF THE POETRY ANTHOLOGY YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
EH!?
AA... AAH WELL...
SINCE THE CASTLE WAS OBTAINED WITHOUT A STRUGGLE, I CAN TAKE MY TIME LOOKING FOR IT LATER.
...ACTUALLY...
WHAT I WAS REALLY LOOKING FOR WAS....
BUT I DON'T WANT TO LIE TO THESE TWO ANY LONGER...


THE "ELIXIR" THAT WAS SEALED IN ALHAMBRA BY A LEGENDARY ALCHEMIST ...!?
....YES.
THE ALCHEMIST NAMED IBRAHIM.
A MATHEMATICIAN, A POET, HE COULD DO ANYTHING FROM ASTROLOGY TO MEDICINE.
PEOPLE CALLED HIM A "MAGICIAN".
IT IS SAID THAT FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO HE CREATED THE "PARADISE OF ELAM" IN THIS LAND AT THE COMMAND OF KING AL HAMAL.
THIS ALHAMBRA PALACE IS ALSO A PRODUCT OF HIS MAGIC!
THE ELIXIR SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THIS LAND!!
H..M..
I DID HEAR THAT THERE WAS A MAN NAMED IBRAHIM INVOLVED WHEN THIS PALACE WAS CONSTRUCTED.
AH THAT PERSON.
I'VE READ ABOUT HIM IN THE LITERATURE IN THE ARCHIVES!


--BUT IBRAHIM IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MADE...
ONLY THE PALACE GATES
PALACE GATES!?
UM... I'M SURE IT WAS...
"THE POME-GRANATE GATE"
YES... REMEM-BER? THE GATES YOU PASSED THROUGH WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO THE PALACE.
THE DOOR WITH THE RELIEF OF THE PALM OF A HAND !!
WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE
MAY YOU HAVE GOD'S PROTEC-TION.


THE ONLY STRUCTURE BUILT BY IBRAHIM
THE POME-GRANATE GATE
SOMEWHERE IN THIS GATE, THE "ELIXIR" IS
THE FIVE FINGERS OF A HAND SYMBOLIZE THE FIVE PRECEPTS OF ISLAM, WAS IT
ON THE FRONT IS THE RELIEF OF THE PALM OF A HAND
THE KEY...!!
BACKSIDE IS
AND ON THE GATE S

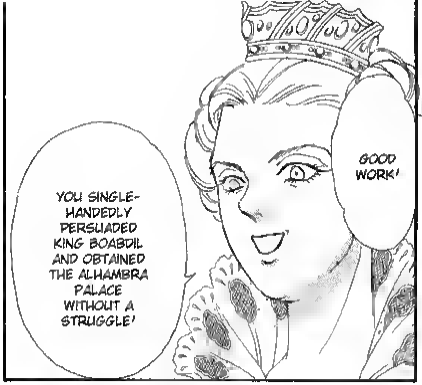

IN OTHER WORDS, THE ELIXIR HAS BEEN SEALED
THE TOWER WILL CRUMBLE, AND ISLAM'S TREASURE SHALL APPEAR "
ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, "WHEN THE HAND ON THE FRONT HOLDS THE KEY ON THE BACK—
"THE HAND ON THE FRONT" "THE KEY ON THE BACK", THEY'RE SOME KIND OF RIDDLE—
—STILL, THERE'S NO WAY THE CARVED HAND CAN STRETCH AROUND TO THE BACK—
THE SCAR IN THE CENTER


I SEE
IS
THIS
HAND

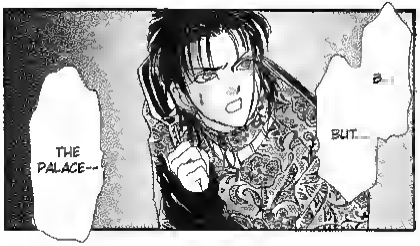

!?
shake
shake
RUMBLE
shake
shake
tweet
chirp
chirp
ee
ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha
ha ha ha
whoosh
HUH?

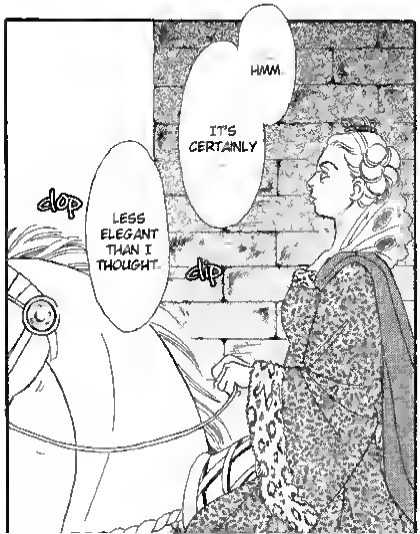

ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
RUMBLE
... WHAT ...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ALHAMBRA.... IS DISAP-PEARING .....!?


RUMBLE...
rumble
rumble
HOW COULD
THIS HAPPEN


YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY PERSUADED KING BOABDIL AND OBTAINED THE ALHAMBRA PALACE WITHOUT A STRUGGLE!
GOOD WORK!

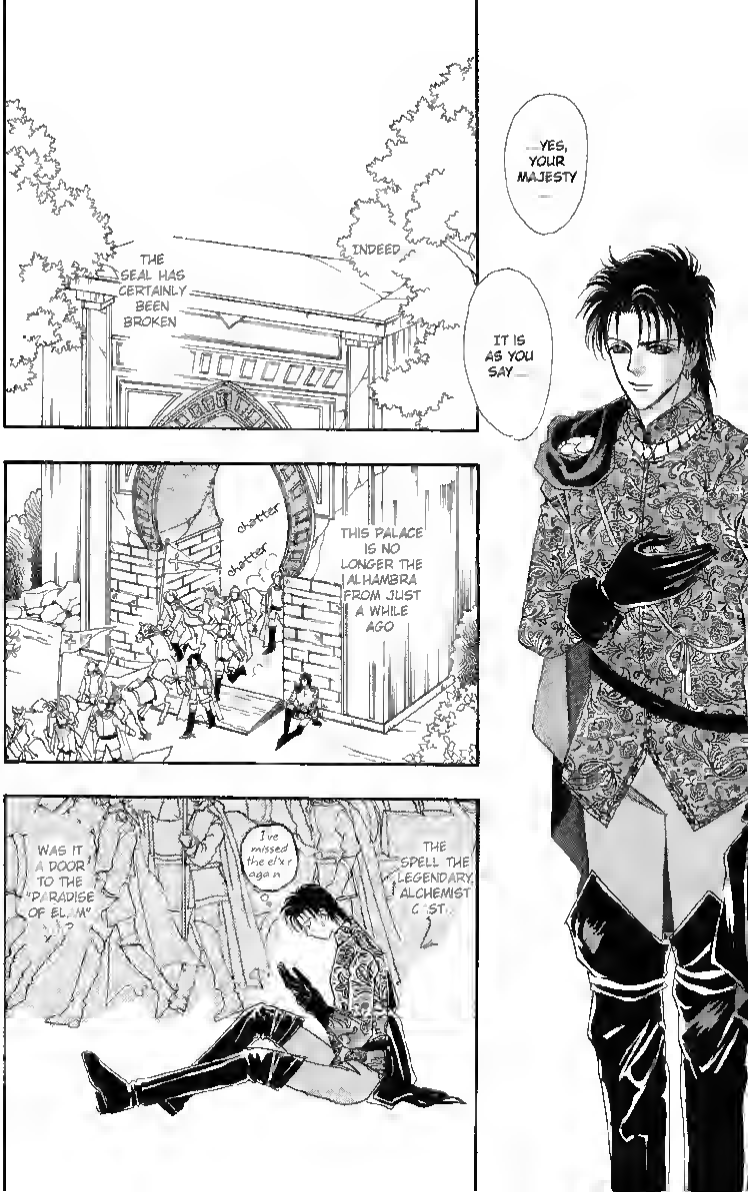

LOREN-ZO!
!!


THE PALACE--
B-
BUT...

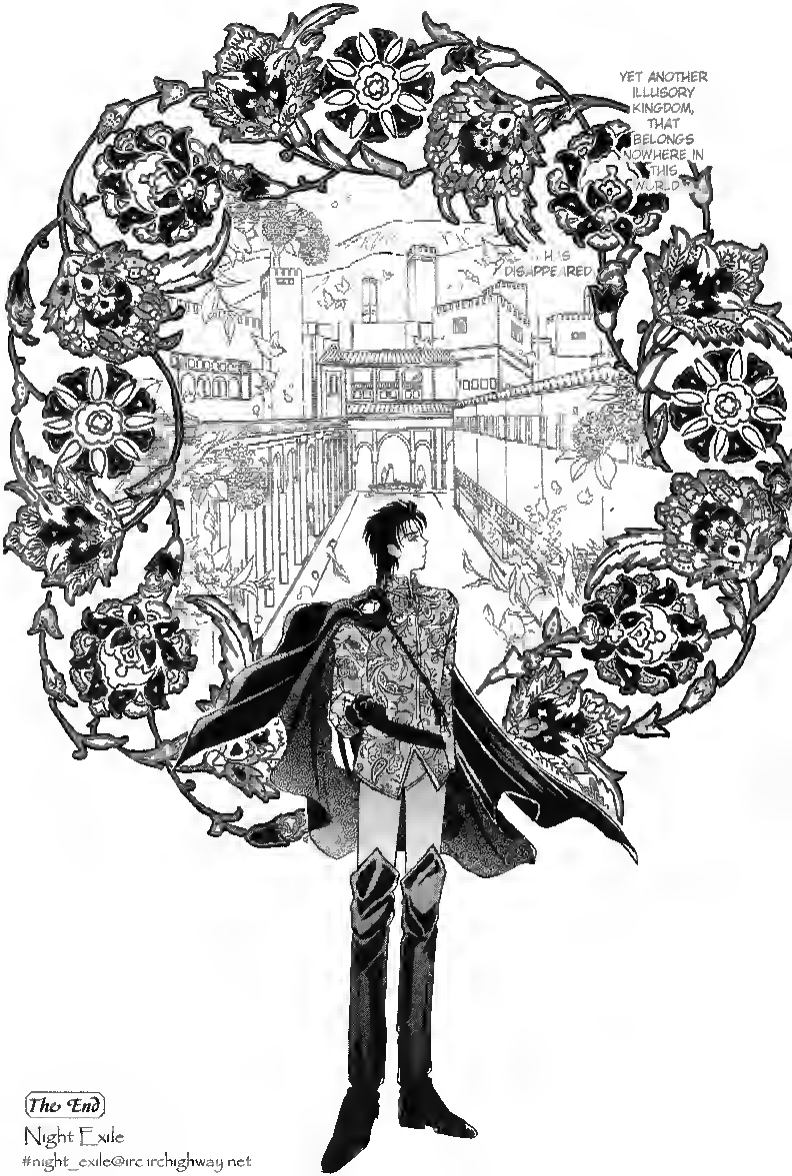

HMM...
IT'S CERTAINLY
dop
LESS ELEGANT THAN I THOUGHT.
dop


QU--
QUEEN ISABELLA


LIKE IT APPEARS FROM BELOW, IT'S JUST A FORT MADE OF RUST-COLORED STONE
EH!?


THE SEAL HAS CERTAINLY BEEN BROKEN
INDEED
IT IS AS YOU SAY
YES, YOUR MAJESTY
clatter
clatter
THIS PALACE IS NO LONGER THE ALHAMBRA FROM JUST A WHILE AGO
WAS IT A DOOR TO THE "PARADISE OF EL M"
I've missed the elixir again
THE SPELL THE LEGENDARY ALCHEMIST C ST


THE VOLUPTUOUS ODALISQUES AND HEROIC WARRIORS
THE STRONG-WILLED PRINCESS AND THE KIND-HEARTED KING
THEY HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN AWAY AS IF A DREAM
THE LONG-BEARDED POETS AND CHEERFUL EUNUCHS
CAN NEVER BE OBTAINED BY NON-BELIEVERS
THAT BEAUTIFUL ALHAMBRA



The End

Night Exile

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Elixir 1
The Labyrinth of Granacis

by Matsuri Akino

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Elixir 1
Abandoned Garden of Amber

by Matsuri Akino

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My dearest Lorenzo,
I have found the "Elixir" at last.
ROSA!!
MY TEACHER IN ALCHEMY
WE HAVEN'T MET IN 3 YEARS!


SNORT
TH...
THIS IS...
!!
clack
knight_castle@theirhighway.net
crack
ROSA!!


ROSA!?
... THERE'S STILL A BURNT SMELL!
COUGH
IT'S BEEN 5 DAYS... NO, A WEEK SINCE IT BURNED?
DID THE FIRE OCCUR RIGHT AFTER THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN...?
If you want to see the Elixir, come to the mansion in Toulouse.
Rosa
ROSA
CLINK
CLUNK
COULD IT BE
A HIDDEN DOOR TO AN UNDER-GROUND ROOM!?
CLUNK

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GRRR
!?
COME NOW, OVER HERE
GYAAA
WAH!
WHAT'S WITH YOU!?
OW!
STOP STRUG-GLING!
KICK
SPLASH


SPLOOSH!
SKREE
COME ON, OVER THERE, TOO!
I HAVE TO TREAT YOU WOUNDS AS WELL
GEEZ, YOU'RE LIKE A WILD CAT
I'M JUST TRYING TO GET THE SOOT OFF
HEY, I TOLD YOU TO STOP STRUG-GLING
slip
....
A AAH
THIS?
TCH!
TUG



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YOU'RE REBIS, RIGHT?
COME
RE... BIS
WELL, WHAT ABOUT ROSA?
WHAT DID SHE CALL YOU?
HMM...
"REBIS", HUH?
ONLY ROSA
SHE HELD ME AND SMILED AT ME...
I DON'T... REALLY KNOW.
DARK PEOPLE CAME. AND THINGS SUDDENLY BECAME RED.
BECAME HOT...
DID SHE MESS UP AN EXPERIMENT OR SOMETHING?
OH YEAH! WHY DID THE FIRE OCCUR?
I WAS ROSA'S HELPER HERE...
DRAWING WATER, COLLECTING WOOD...
ROSA WAS SCARY BUT KIND.

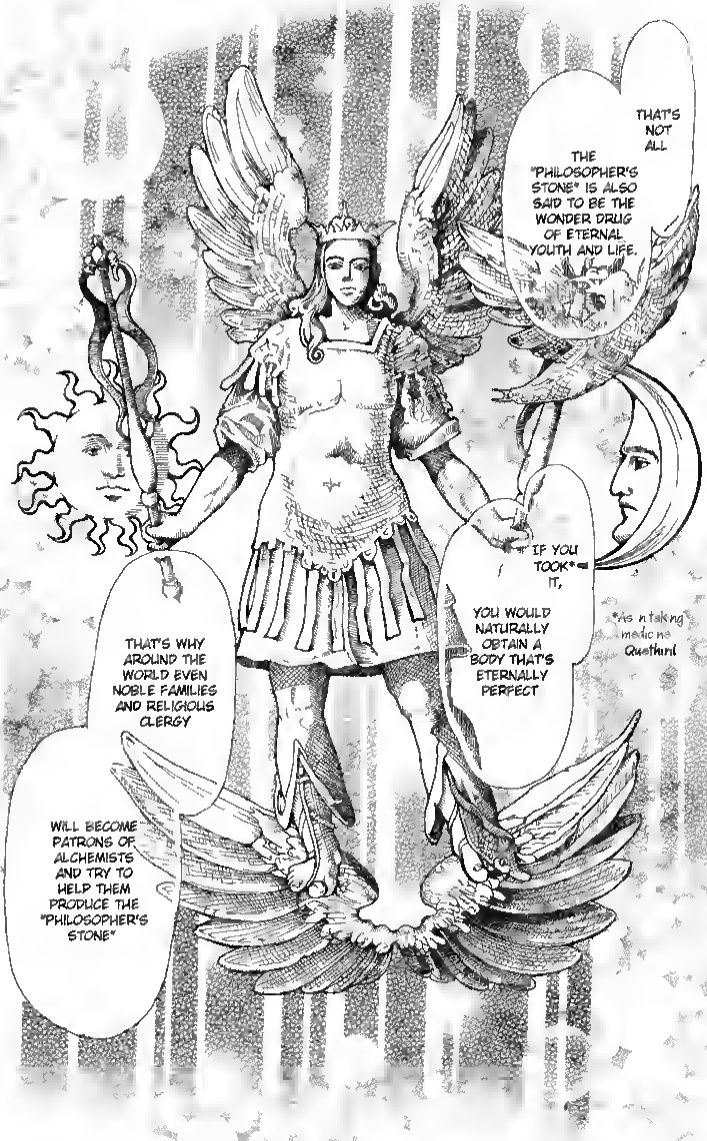




*Same deal as before. The kanji for Ekir translates as "Philosopher's Stone"
-Quethin!

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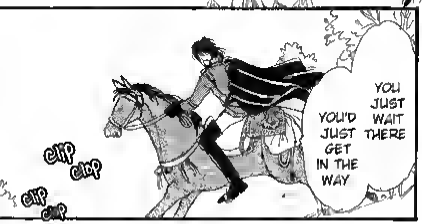

THAT'S NOT ALL
THE "PHILOSOPHER'S STONE" IS ALSO SAID TO BE THE WONDER DRUG OF ETERNAL YOUTH AND LIFE.
IF YOU TOOK* IT,
YOU WOULD NATURALLY OBTAIN A BODY THAT'S ETERNALLY PERFECT
*As in taking medicine
Quetzuni
THAT'S WHY AROUND THE WORLD EVEN NOBLE FAMILIES AND RELIGIOUS CLERGY
WILL BECOME PATRONS OF ALCHEMISTS AND TRY TO HELP THEM PRODUCE THE "PHILOSOPHER'S STONE"

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WHAT'S WRONG?
BAM
ALRIGHT, IN TIMES LIKE THESE
THEY'RE AWFULLY WATCHFUL
ARE OUTSIDERS— LIKE ME— UNUSUAL?
WHAT'S THIS?
RUMMAGE
RUSTLE
CLIP
CLOP


DOING SOMETHING SO COMMENDABLE, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE YOUNG!
WHY, IT'S A PILGRIM!
turn around
COULD I BOTHER YOU FOR A CUP OF WATER?
EXCUSE ME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
MAY YOU ALL RECEIVE THE LORD'S PROTECTION
HERE, EAT YOUR FILL
Accessories with a shell are the symbol of a pilgrim from the holy place of Santiago.
AND NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU ARE, BE MADE TO CONFESS IN 3 DAYS
THEY SAY THAT ONCE YOU ARE SUSPECTED OF BEING A WITCH, YOU WILL SUFFER TERRIBLE TORTURE AT THE COURTHOUSE
ACTUALLY, RECENTLY
THERE'S BEEN A DISTURBING RUMOR THAT OFFICIALS FROM THE VATICAN WERE SECRETLY DISPATCHED ON A WITCH HUNT
WITCH HUNT?
SENTENCED TO A TRIAL BY WATER, YOU'LL BE TIED TO WEIGHTS AND THROWN INTO DEEP WATER
IF YOU ARE A REAL WITCH YOU'LL RISE TO THE SURFACE AND BE GUILTY
IF YOU SIMPLY SINK TO THE BOTTOM, YOUR INNOCENCE IS PROVEN, BUT YOU'LL EVENTUALLY DROWN
BASICALLY IN EITHER CASE YOU WON'T MAKE IT BACK ALIVE


IT'S ROSA!
THAT RED-HAIRED WOMAN!
IT BECAME DANGEROUS SO SHE DISAPPEARED
BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, IN A MANSION NEAR THE VILLAGE,
SHE WAS MIXING POISONS AND INVOKING MAGICAL CURSES
....
AND SO?
IS THERE A WITCH IN THIS VILLAGE?
DON'T SAY SUCH RIDICULOUS THINGS!
MY SICK FATHER WAS CURED BY MEDICINE THAT MISS ROSA MIXED
WHEN MY WIFE WAS ABOUT TO DIE DURING A DIFFICULT BIRTH THANKS TO MISS ROSA BOTH MOTHER AND CHILD WERE SAVED
MISS ROSA SAVED THEIR LIVES!!
SHE'S A MODEL LADY!!
SHE TOOK IN A POOR ORPHAN AND RAISED HIM.
MOREOVER, THAT PERSON WAS A DEVOUT CHRISTIAN


WHAT DO YOU MEAN LADY!
THAT WOMAN WAS A HARLOT!!
SHE'S GOT TO BE THE MISTRESS OF AN ARISTOCRAT SOMEWHERE OR SOME HIGH-RANKING BISHOP.
OTHERWISE SHE WOULDN'T BE ALL DRESSED UP EVERYDAY LIVING IN A COUNTRYSIDE LIKE THIS!
KEH!
SHE WAS JUST A STUCK-UP BITCH.
AN ALCHEMIST IS JUST AN IMPOSTER.
SHE COULD MAKE PILES AND PILES OF GOLD.
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE MISS ROSA'S AN ALCHEMIST.
WELL...
LISTENING TO ALL THIS...
THIS "ROSA" WOMAN SEEMS LIKE QUITE A FASCINATING LADY
AGAINST HER PURE WHITE SKIN, HER HAIR WAS AS RED AS POPPIES.
HER AGE WAS PROBABLY 25 OR 26
OF COUREE! SHE WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL


THAT REMINDS ME, HER MANSION BURNING DOWN
WAS BECAUSE ROSA USED MAGIC THAT PRODUCED FIRE FROM HER BARE HANDS...
IDIOT! THAT'S JUST A TRICK OF ALCHEMY, RIGHT?
...IS THAT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, SHE DIGS UP THE GRAVES OF CHILDREN AND EATS THEIR CORPSES.
HMPH! YOU KNOW, THE SECRET TO THAT WOMAN'S BEAUTY
AS FOR THAT FOSTER CHILD, SHE KIDNAPPED HIM FROM SOMEWHERE
AND ONLY KEPT HIM SO SHE COULD DRINK HIS FRESH BLOOD EVERY DAY




THE FIRE HAPPENED A WEEK AGO.
HMMM. JUDGING FROM WHAT THE VILLAGERS SAID


...NO, PERHAPS... A WORD SLIPPED OUT THAT SHE HAD DISCOVERED THE "ELIXIR" THAT COULD MAKE GOLD IN INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY, AND SHE WAS ATTACKED BY SOMEONE
ROSA HAD HER HOUSE BROKEN INTO BY THE OFFICIALS ON THE WITCH HUNT AND PERSONALLY SET FIRE TO HER HOUSE AND ESCAPED...
HER AGE WAS PROBABLY 25 OR 26
FIRE FROM HER BARE HANDS
COULD ROSA REALLY HAVE BEEN A WITCH...?
...A WITCH...!?
...NO... THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE...


ROSA WAS AN ALCHEMIST HIRED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY OF CYPRUS
SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT DOCTOR, A FORTUNE TELLER, A PHILOSOPHER
AND THE PRINCE'S TUTOR.
BUT WHEN THE PRINCE TURNED 7
LORENZO.
TELL THEM NO!!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THAT
SWEAR THAT YOUR GOD IS JESUS CHRIST ALONE!
WHY?


THEY'RE REALLY THERE.
AND OVER HERE.
LOOK, OVER THERE
BUT I CAN SEE THEM.
CYPRUS HAS MANY, MANY GODS
#night_exile@irc.irchighway.net
HERESY !!
YES...
A CHILD LIKE THIS IS NOT MY SON.
HE'S THE DEVIL'S CHILD!
MY KING, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.


WHACK
KAAAAAA
HELP ME
MOTHER, FATHER
GOD HELP ME
IT'S HOT
IT HURTS
LORENZO!


LORENZO.
ROSA ...!?
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
ROSA...
ROSA...


...ARE YOU AWAKE NOW?
THAT WAS STUPID, TO BE SO STUBBORN.
IF YOU DIED FOR THE SAKE OF THE GODS, YOU WOULD HAVE LOST EVERYTHING.
....
HUMANS LIVE FOR THEIR OWN SELVES, YOU KNOW.
FOR THAT REASON, YOU NEED TO BECOME A LITTLE WISER, MY PRINCE.


AT TIMES WE WERE DRIVEN AWAY LIKE GYPSIES
AT TIMES WE WERE TREATED LIKE ROYALTY
FROM THEN ON I TRAVELED ALL ACROSS EUROPE WITH ROSA AS HER PUPIL
I HAD BEGUN TO THINK IT WAS STRANGE EVEN WHEN I WAS A CHILD
BUT HER BEAUTY DID NOT CHANGE FROM THE TIME WE MET
10 YEARS PASSED
MY HEIGHT CAME TO SURPASS ROSA'S
DID ROSA SAVE ME IN ORDER TO DRINK MY BLOOD AND PRESERVE THE YOUTH OF A WITCH...?
SHE LEAPED INTO THE FIRE WITHOUT HESITATION
AND IS THAT CHILD REBIS THE NEW SACRIFICE...?
COULD SHE REALLY HAVE BEEN A "WITCH"?
LORENZO! YOU SHOULD GO TO COLLEGE
GO AND STUDY MORE
This is an accep-tance letter!
-3E
WAS THAT MY GOOD FORTUNE



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ROSA IS MY TEACHER

MY OLDER SISTER

AN ETERNAL GODDESS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE ELSE...

EVEN IF SHE MAY BE A "WITCH"...






AS I THOUGHT, YOU ARE ALSO A FRIEND OF THE WITCH...
step
EMIS-SARIES FROM THE VATICAN ...!!
DID YOU FOLLOW ME FROM THE VILLAGE!?
WHERE IS THE RED-HAIRED WOMAN!?
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO SET FIRE TO THE HOUSE, AREN'T YOU.
THAT'S MY LINE!!


THIS ISN'T A JOKE.
HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO TORTURE ME!
SEIZE THEM!
THIS TIME WE'LL MAKE YOU CONFESS EVERYTHING UNDER INTERROGATION.
RUSH FORWARD!
REBIS!
YOU RUN AWAY!
UU...
SLASH
CLANG


UGH
stab
STOP HESITATING!
HURRY AND GO!!
A LILI
KYAAAA

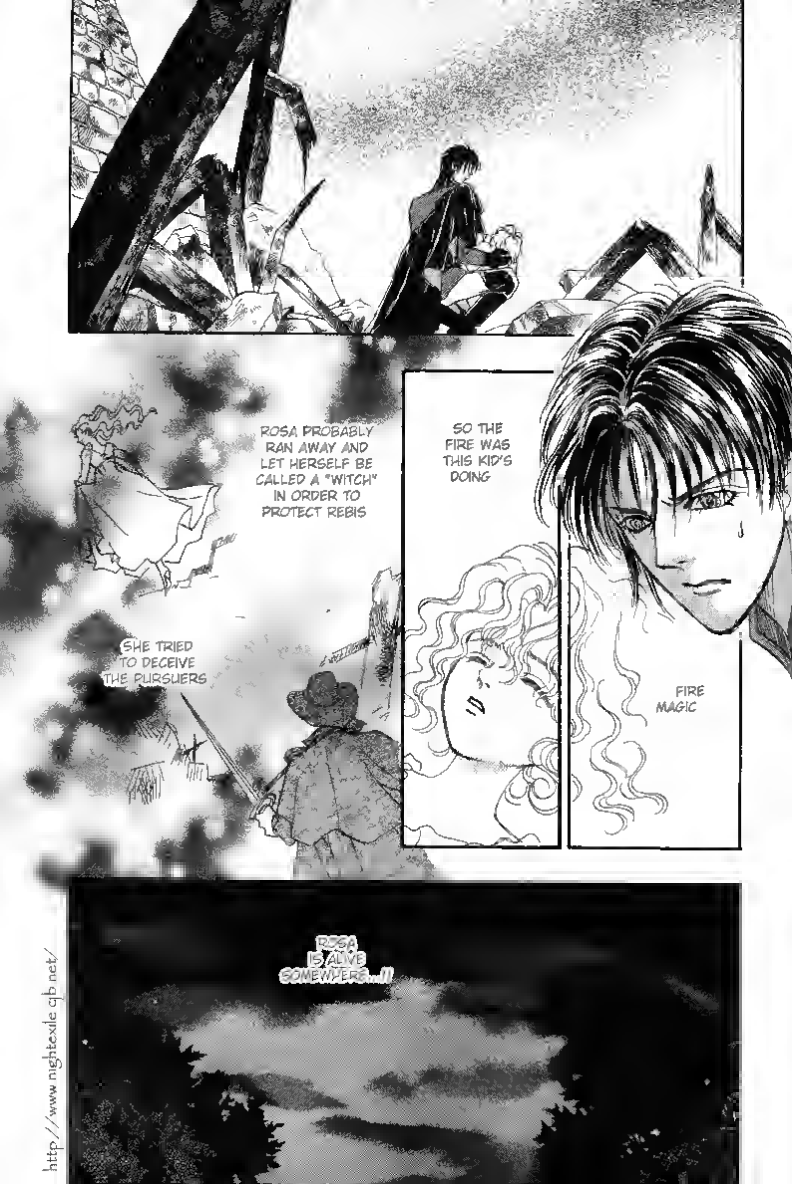

!!
WHOOSH

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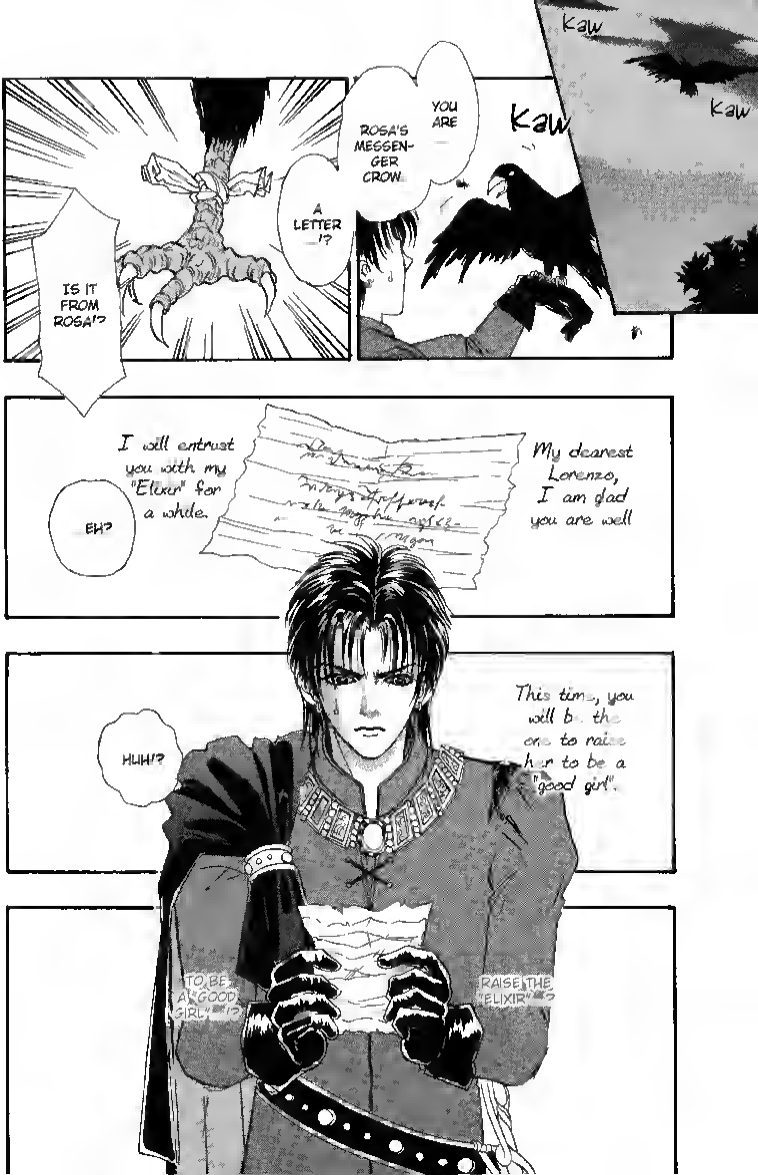



UGH...
THAT TIME, THE ONE WHO... USED MAGIC
WASN'T ROSA
BUT... YOU...
whump
REBIS!
REBIS!
STOP!!
shak
shaka
OUCH

REBIS!!
crash
collapse
HH
huff
huff
....

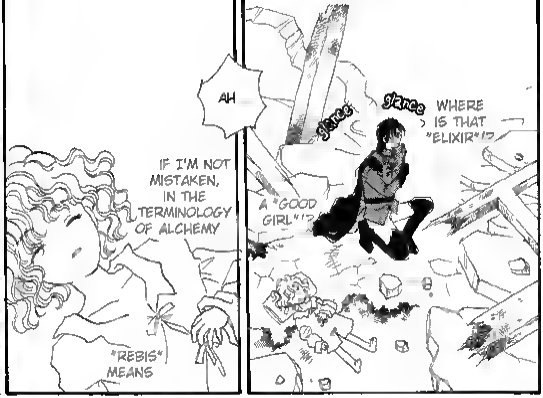


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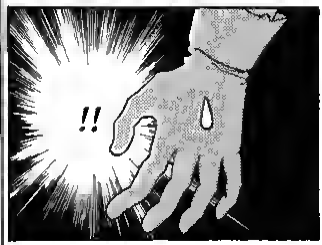

Kaw
Kaw
Kaw
YOU ARE ROSA'S MESSENGER CROW.
A LETTER !?
IS IT FROM ROSA!?
My dearest Lorenzo, I am glad you are well
I will entrust you with my "Elixir" for a while.
EH?
This time, you will be the one to raise her to be a "good girl".
HUH!?
TO BE A "GOOD GIRL"!?
RAISE THE "ELIXIR"!?













Waaah!! Lorenzo what are you doing?? X_x



+night_owl@archlinux.hwaei.net


'I HAVE FOUND THE "ELIXIR" AT LAST'
DID SHE MEAN "REBIS"?
IT WAS ALSO A SYMBOL OF THE "ELIXIR"
=
equals
IN THE WORLD OF ALCHEMY, HERMAPHRODITES ARE CONSIDERED LIFE-FORMS OF ULTIMATE PERFECTION
"RAISE HER TO BE A GOOD GIRL"?
"ENTRUST TO ME FOR A WHILE"...??
WAIT A MINUTE...
THIS ISN'T A JOKE
A MALE PUPIL WHO'S SOMEHOW HALF A GIRL...
NO, MORE IMPORTANTLY
BECOMING INVOLVED WITH THIS "DEVIL'S CHILD" WHO POSESSES POWER OF AN UNKNOWN NATURE...
...


THROWN AWAY BY HIS PARENTS BECAUSE OF HIS EXTRAORDINARY POWER...
PURSUED BY THE CHURCH AS A "DEVIL'S CHILD"...
HELP ME
EVEN IF YOU ARE A "DEVIL'S CHILD"...
THE ONE WHO LEAPED INTO THE BLAZING FIRE FOR MY SAKE
IT WAS NOT MY PARENTS
NOR GOD...
IT WAS ROSA
YOU ARE MY ADORABLE STUDENT


since
since
sits up
AH!
...
AH-
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP, SLOWPOKE!
LET'S GO!
AT LEAST LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS VILLAGE
grab
...EH?
mutter
C'MON, STOP CRYING
YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?
YE... S.
... AH, ARE YOU HUNGRY?
hungry
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◆◆ *First Publication at a Glance* ◆◆

Goddesses of Dawn and Dusk

Horror M 98 11/21 Special Issue Horror M Special Vol.2

Labyrinth of Granacis

Horror M 99 5/1 Special Issue Horror M Special Vol.8

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Note. The 'M' stands for Mystery

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